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Alliances

[image]

Skyclan

Leader- Sharpstar: Dark ginger tom. Mate to Cherrytail. 3 lives left. 10 yrs.

Deputy- Sunglow: Golden tom with golden brown eyes and light tabby stripes. Mate to Nightwing. 4 yrs.

Medicine cat- Frecklewish: Mottled light brown tabby she-cat with spotted legs. 7 yrs. (Apprentice- Clearpaw)

Warriors-

Sparrowpelt: Dark brown tabby tom. 8 yrs.

Cherrytail: Tortoiseshell and white she-cat. Mate to Sharpstar. 8 yrs.

Waspwhisker: Gray and white tom. Mate to Fallowfern. 8yrs. (Apprentice- Falconpaw)

Fallowfern: Pale brown she-cat. Mate to Waspwhisker. 8 yrs.

Rockshade: Black tom with a torn ear. Mate to Mintfur. 7.5 yrs.

Bouncefire: Ginger tom. 7.5 yrs.

Tinycloud: Small white she-cat. 7.5 yrs.

Egg: Cream colored tom. 7 yrs.

Sagefur: Pale gray tom. 7 yrs.

Mintfur: Gray tabby she-cat. Mate to Rockshade. 7 yrs.

Rabbitleap: Brown tom. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Dustpaw)

Creekfeather: Gray tabby tom. 6.5 yrs.

Nettlesplash: Pale brown tom. Mate to Birdscar. 6.5 yrs.

Plumwillow: Dark gray she-cat. 6.5 yrs.

Sandyflame: Light colored she-cat with darker tail tip, legs, and ears. 6yrs

Honeyfur: Light colored she-cat. 6 yrs.

Birdscar: Black she-cat with a gray muzzle and a scar over one eye. Mate to Nettlesplash. 6 yrs.

Stormflash: Gray and Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs. (Apprentice-Birchpaw)

Firespirit: Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs.

Harrypelt: A gray tom with a paler gray muzzle and underbelly. 5.5 yrs.

Moonshadow: Silver tom black spots and silvery blue eyes. 4 yrs.

Jayflight: Blue eyed tom with a light blue gray pelt. 4 yrs.

Blizzardheart: She-cat with tabby patches across her white fur. 3.5 yrs.

Tigerflame: Ginger tom with gray stripes. 3.5 yrs.

Nightwing: Black she-cat with amber eyes. Mate to Sunglow. 3 yrs.

Apprentices-

Clearpaw: Pure white she-cat with blue eyes. 9 moons.

Birchpaw: Tom with a light tan pelt. 9 moons.

Dustpaw: Tom with dark sand colored fur. 6 moons.

Falconpaw: Tom with a black and brown pelt along with two different colored eyes. 6 moons.

Queens-

Hawkshriek: She-cat with yellow eyes and dark brown fur. Mate to Egg. 6.5 yrs. (Kits- Fangkit, Goldenkit, and Shadekit.)

Fallenbird: Green eyed she-cat with light brown fur. Mate to Moonshadow. 5.5 yrs.

Elders-

Patchfoot: Black and white tom with green eyes. 10 yrs.

Shrewtooth: Skinny black tom. Had to retire early due to a leg injury. 7.5 yrs.

Thunderclan

Leader- Bramblestar: 9 lives.

Deputy- Squirrelflight

Medicine cat- Jayfeather

Warriors-

Graystripe

Dustpelt

Sandstorm

Brackenfur

Brightheart

Cloudtail

Millie

Thornclaw

Leafpool

Birchfall

Whitewing

Hazeltail

Lionblaze

Foxleap

Toadstep

Rosepetal

Blossomfall

Bumblestripe

Dovewing

Cherryfur

Moleclaw

Queens-

Daisy

Cinderheart (kits- Softkit, Ashkit, Badgerkit)

Ivypool

Elders-

Purdy

Shadowclan

Leader- Rowanstar: 8 lives.

Deputy- Crowfrost

Medicine cat- Acornshade

Warriors-

Oakfur

Smokefoot (Apprentice- Darkpaw)

Toadfoot

Applefur

Ratscar

Tawnypelt

Owlclaw

Kinkfur

Ivytail

Scorchfur

Tigerheart

Dawnpelt (Apprentice- Marshpaw)

Pinenose

Ferretclaw

Starlingwing

Apprentices-

Darkpaw

Marshpaw

Elders-

Snaketail

Whitewater

Windclan

Leader- Onestar

Deputy- Emberfoot

Medicine cat- Kestrelflight (Apprentice- Whisperpaw)

Warriors-

Crowfeather

Owlwhisker

Whitetail

Nightcloud

Weaselfur

Harespring

Leaftail

Heathertail

Swallowtail

Sunstrike (Apprentice- Grasspaw)

Furzepelt

Boulderfall

Apprentices-

Whisperpaw

Grasspaw

Elders-

Tornear

Riverclan

Leader- Mistystar: 4 Lives.

Deputy- Reedwhisker

Medicine cat- Willowshine

Warriors-

Mintfur

Icewing

Pebblefoot

Minnowtail

Robinwing

Duskfur (Apprentice- Scalepaw)

Mosspelt

Beetlewhisker

Grasspelt

Hollowflight

Troutstream

Mossyrock

Rushsplash

Apprentices-

Scalepaw

Queens-

Petalfur

Elders-

Pouncetail

Other Cats/ Animals

Billystorm: Left clan after his mate Leafstar died but occasionally shows up to see his kits.

Chapter 1

[image]

Frecklewish led the way as her apprentice Clearpaw followed her into Whispering Cave to share tongues with their ancestors. They settled down by the water in a patch without any moss to slip on, Frecklewish took a drink from the water and Clearpaw followed her example. When Frecklwish opened her eyes again she saw a flame colored tom she thought she'd never see again sitting beside Echosong.

"Firestar... you're dead?" She asked in disbelief.

"Yes, and I have come to speak with the Starclan cats from Skyclan along with the other leaders or medicine cats from around the lake." Firestar replied.

"I thought Spottedleaf would be here too." Clearpaw said as she sat down beside her mentor.

"Both of us are in the same dream?"

"It's easier to talk this way." Echosong explained. "Also, Firestar has informed us that Spottedleaf was killed in the battle against the Dark Forest."

"Just get to the point of why we're here." A white tom with black paws growled as he led two other cats into the clearing.

Firestar stood up. "This is Blackstar former leader of Shadowclan, Kestrelflight the former medicine cat of Windclan, and Leopardstar the former leader of Riverclan."

"We have traveled to these skies to speak of a prophecy with your ancestors." Kestrelflight told them. "Back at our territories the clans' medicine cats are talking with some of Skyclan's ancestors as well to prepare for what will be happening."

Blackstar hissed and glared at him. "Just give them the prophecy."

They all sat down except Echosong, she walked forward until she was almost a tail length away. "The sun will disappear and the moon will turn red with blood, during this time enemies will stir and prey will hide in fear. To save the clan the falcon must travel farther than where the origin began and into the land of beyond."

"What do you mean? Is Skyclan in danger?" Frecklewish exclaimed.

"Is our clan going to be destroyed again?" Clearpaw asked as she remembered the nursery tails Cherrytail had told her.

Leopardstar shook her head. "No, not if this cat succeeds in reaching the other clans in time."

"Well that shouldn't be hard. They can follow the river." Frecklewish replied.

"The clans are gone... we moved to a lake across the mountains." Firestar told her. "Once you find the cat and they leave, we will do all we can to guide them."

They faded and Frecklewish woke up in the cave beside Clearpaw, they got up and walked out of the cave. She let her apprentice go back to her nest but continued walking briskly to Sharpstar's den. He looked up sleepily as she entered and sat up.

"What is it Frecklewish? Did Starclan tell you something?" Sharpstar yawned.

"It was a prophecy." She told him before repeating what Starclan had told her. "The sun will disappear and the moon will turn red with blood, during this time enemies will stir and prey will hide in fear. To save the clan the falcon must travel farther than where the origin began and into the land of beyond."

"Do you know what it means?"

"No. But something bad is coming... that much is obvious."

"Can we prevent it?"

Frecklewish looked down at the ground. "I'm not sure. For all we know the prophecy might already be in motion."

Sharpstar dismissed her and Frecklewish padded back to her den, she curled up in her nest and closed her eyes. Perhaps when she woke up the prophecy would be clearer, at least then she'd have Clearpaw to help her and be able to keep her eyes open.

Chapter 2

[image]

Falconpaw woke up a dawn as his mentor Waspwhisker called for him, he stretched and quickly washed his pelt before running out to meet him, his mentor led the way out of camp and to the forest. Waspwhisker motioned for him to stop with his tail.

"Today you get to learn how to hunt in the trees." Waspwhisker announced.

"Don't I need to learn how to climb better first?" Falconpaw asked.

"Yes but that isn't too hard to learn, you just need to know where to put your paws. Just watch what I do."

Waspwhisker jumped onto the trunk of the nearest tree, he made his claws come out and started climbing until he reached the first branch.

"You look like a gray and white squirrel." Falconpaw purred.

Waspwhisker ignored the comment. "This tree's bark is soft so you should be able to dig your claws into easily."

Falconpaw unsheathed his claws and jumped into the tree, he slid down a tail length until he managed to dig in his claws. After that climbing up to the branch where his mentor sat was easy. Waspwhisker nodded his approval before walking farther out on the branch.

"Now it's time to practice jumping from tree to tree. The first thing you need to make sure you know is if the branch can hold you. The farther up in the tree you go the thinner the branches will get." Waspwhisker told him. "Now, we're going to start off low then maybe in a few sun rises I'll let you go higher."

Falconpaw watched closely as his mentor walked across the branch

and let it gently sway, Waspwhisker bunched up his muscles and kept his eyes trained on another large branch nearby before jumping across gracefully. He turned around to look at his apprentice and moved back to give him room.

"Just keep calm and make sure you know where you're going to land."

Falconpaw started padding out on the branch and it swayed a bit. "Keep calm... right..."

He glanced at the branch Waspwhisker was on and slowly bunched up his muscles, making sure he was judging the leap correctly, he jumped and collided with his mentor. Waspwhisker stopped himself from falling with a short hiss of shock and rebalanced himself on the branch.

"Sorry..." Falconpaw said, crouching down and wait for Waspwhisker to yell at him.

"It's fine. You can jump really far, just make sure you can control your distance."

Falconpaw nodded. "Can we hunt now?"

"Of course, then if you do well I'll stop training for the day." Waspwhisker purred.

Waspwhisker showed Falconpaw how to safely get out of the tree and looked up waiting for his apprentice to follow but Falconpaw stayed where he was.

"I want to try hunting in the trees!"

"Then don't push yourself too hard I don't want you to fall and break your leg like Shrewtooth."

"Shrewtooth hurt his leg jumping a fox not hunting." Falconpaw replied before climbing higher and jumping into the next tree.

Waspwhisker sighed and started hunting, being careful to stay nearby incase Falconpaw got hurt.

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Sunglow looked around the clearing as the dawn patrol left along with some hunting parties, he turned his head as tiny paw steps came running towards him. Hawkshriek's kits screeched and tackled him to the ground, he purred as they pretended to attack him.

"Shadestar we caught the intruder!" Fangkit yowled.

Shadekit ran over and jumped on Sunglow's side. "Why were you spying on our camp?"

"Goldenkit, Fangkit, Shadekit, get over here right now and leave the deputy alone!" Hawkshriek growled. The kits ran passed their mother and over to their father, Egg, to play with him. "I hope they weren't bothering you."

"Of course not. I have to get used to it now because Fallenbird's going to be having my brother's kits soon." He replied.

Hawkshriek didn't look convinced but left to help her mate stop the kits from running wild and attacking all the 'intruders'. Sunglow saw his brother Moonshadow and walked over to him.

"So have you chosen names for your kits yet?"

Moonshadow sat down in a shady spot and turned to Sunglow. "They aren't even born yet."

"They will be in a moon."

"I'll decide then, besides Fallenbird will want to name some too."

Sunglow nodded before stretching. "Well I better go check on the elders to see if they need anything."

"Wait, before that do you want to go hunting with me?" Moonshadow asked as he jumped up.

"I already sent out hunting patrols."

"Can't I spend time with my own brother? Besides I want to ask you
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something about Hawkshriek's kits."

Sunglow thought about it for a few heartbeats, it had been a long time since they'd hunted together, he changed course and started heading towards the camp entrance. "Come on then, we can go to the side of the territory the other patrol isn't hunting in."

Moonshadow hurried after his brother, a dark light shined in his eye as he jealously watched his brother climbing out of the gorge.

?

Chapter 3

[image]

Moonshadow followed his brother as Sunglow led them into the woods; he waited for them to get deeper into the forest so the brush would hide what he was about to do. Sunglow tasted the air for prey scent before jumping into the nearest tree, he flicked his tail to motion for Moonshadow to get in the tree next to his before moving towards the blue jay that just landed in a tree ahead. Moonshadow followed his brother's orders and together they crept up on the bird, Sunglow made the leaves rustle against each other and the bird fluttered its wings. While it was distracted Moonshadow jumped into the tree and killed it neatly.

"Nice catch." Sunglow commented.

Moonshadow nodded and let the prey drop to the ground, Sunglow turned around to get out of his tree but felt a large weight land on his back. He clawed at the branch but ended up crashing to the ground. Moonshadow heard his brother's body land on the ground with a dull thump, he looked down and saw Sunglow's head was at bad angle, when he climbed down to see if he was successful in killing him. As he got closer he could see that the golden fur on his chest was still, Sunglow was dead.

Moonshadow picked up Sunglow by his scruff and carried him back to camp, he left the bird he'd caught under some leaves so that a cat could pick it up later, as he approached camp a Nightwing let out a shriek.

"What happened to him?" She yowled.

Moonshadow waited until he was in camp and had the attention of all the cats. "Sunglow was hunting with me... I caught a bird and we were climbing out of the tree. He slipped and fell before I could catch him."

Sharpstar came back into camp with his patrol and pushed through

the gossiping cats, he nuzzled his deputy's fur before letting Frecklewish prepare Sunglow's body for burial. Nightwing stayed by her mate's body, she was going to tell him about how she was going to have kits in a few moons, now she wouldn't get the chance. Sharpstar climbed to the top of the rock pile and called for a clan meeting, overhead the moon was starting to rise in the sky.

"The time has come to appoint a new deputy. I say these words on behalf of Sunglow's spirit, so that he may approve of my choice." Sharpstar looked down at the cats below. "Moonshadow will be the new deputy of Skyclan."

The clan called out Moonshadow's name before breaking up to sleep, grieve, or mourn the death of their old deputy. Sharpstar sat by Sunglow's body and Frecklewish joined him.

"Are you sure Moonshadow is the right choice?" She whispered.

"Yes, Moonshadow is a loyal warrior and always has been. Besides I need a cat like him, strong and young, to take over the clan when the rest of my lives are gone."

She glanced toward where Moonshadow was speaking with his mate; Fallenbird nuzzled him before padding over to Clearpaw and telling her something. The apprentice ran over to the medicine cats' den and came out with a bundle of herbs. Sensing something was wrong Frecklewish ran over.

"Why are you giving her herbs?" She asked.

"Fallenbird said she was in pain." Clearpaw replied.

"Of course she is! She's going to be a queen soon!"

Frecklewish ran over to where Fallenbird was walking towards the nursery and redirected her to the medicine cats' den. She had the soon to be queen lay on her side and ran her paw along her side.

"You're kits should be coming soon. In a sunrise or two so make sure you stay in camp."

Fallenbird got up. "Can you tell if they're okay?"

"I'm sure they're fine. You're healthy and that means they will be." Frecklewish assured her.

Fallenbird ran over to Moonshadow and told him the news before he immediately ushered her back to the nursery. Frecklewish and Clearpaw watched the deputy carefully.

"Do you really think the prophecy's about him?" Clearpaw asked.

"I'm not sure... but if it is then Moonshadow is doing a wonderful job of hiding it."

"Or maybe's he's just waiting for Sharpstar to die."

"I'm afraid he might not wait... Moonshadow might just murder him while no one is around."

Clearpaw looked at her mentor. "Do you think he killed his brother Sunglow?"

"Starclan knows maybe... but cats have died from falling out of trees before."

Chapter 4

[image]

It had been two moons since Sunglow's death and now Fallenbird had given birth to three healthy kits. There were two toms, Bluekit and Talonkit, and then their sister Flamekit. Falconpaw watched them chases each other around and play with Hawkshriek's kits as he cleaned out the nursery, he and his brother Dustpaw were now the only apprentices after their den mate became a warrior so now they had a lot more tasks to do.

"Hey Falconpaw." Birchleap greeted as he saw what his old den mate was doing. "Having fun cleaning the nursery?"

"Just because you're a warrior now doesn't mean you're better than me." Falconpaw spat. "I'll be a warrior too in a few moons!"

Birchleap tilted his head. "But you aren't one yet so what does it matter?"

Falconpaw growled at him but turned around to finish putting in new bedding, Birchleap strutted away to find another cat to pester, why were new warriors so arrogant? Just as he finished Sharpstar jumped onto the rockpile and called a clan meeting, Hawkshriek and Egg started cleaning Fangkit, Goldenkit, and Shadekit's fur. Falconpaw sighed in relief, now he could go back to his normal training and leave them to clean out bedding and get rid of the elder's fleas and ticks.

"Fangkit, Goldenkit, and Shadekit. Step forward." Sharpstar commanded. "From this day forward, until these three have earned their warrior names, they will be known as Fangpaw, Goldenpaw, and Shadepaw. Your mentors will be Jayflight, Nettlesplash, and me."

Shadepaw touched noses with his mentor, his eyes lit in excitement. "I'm the leader's apprentice!"

"Don't get such a big head. That doesn't mean you'll learn anything different." Goldenpaw told him.

"It just means you have more things to do than us." Fangpaw purred.

Shadepaw looked at his mentor. "Is that true?"

"It all depends on who you have for a mentor but yes I will make you do more. Whether it's changing the bedding, hunting, battle moves, or anything else. Just remember though, being arrogant can get you into trouble." Sharpstar told him.

Falconpaw saw Moonshadow offer to take them on his patrol and the new apprentices left with their mentors walking behind them. He sighed and wished that he were going on patrol, but now that the nursery was done he had to clean out Frecklewish and Clearpaw's nest.

"Stop complaining." Dustpaw snapped. "At least you don't have to get rid of fleas and ticks!"

"I wasn't complaining." Falconpaw said.

A yowl sounded from across the clearing and Dustpaw's mentor glared at his apprentice impatiently.

"You better leave before Rabbitleap claws your ears off."

Dustpaw nodded in a agreement and ran off to get mousebile for the ticks, Falconpaw waited until he came out with it before going in and clearing out the old bedding, Clearpaw gave him some fresh bedding before leaving him and going out to help her mentor collect herbs.

The patrol came back with claw marks on their pelts, Sharpstar staggered up to the rock pile to call another meeting but Moonshadow hissed at him and made Firespirit take him to get treated.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather in front of the rock pile for a clan meeting!" Moonshadow yowled. Anxious glances

were cast around and murmuring swept through the gathered cats. "We were attacked by a group of rogues near the twoleg place. Billystorm showed up and helped fight them off but Sharpstar has lost another life! I have spoken with him and the other cats on my patrol, we have decided to patrol that part of the border more frequently and only warriors are allowed to go there."

"What if the rogues find camp?" Nightwing yowled.

"We will keep our camp well defended and guarded at all times."

Cherrytail stopped looking towards the medicine cat den and stood up. "Skyclan defeated the rats when we were outnumbered! Now we have even more cats in the clan, these rogues won't stand a chance against us!"

Yowls of agreement rose up from the senior warriors and elders. Moonshadow raised his tail for silence so he could continue. "Another important thing about these rogues is that they wear kittypet collars with animal claws and teeth in them. If one of these cats is seen then report back here immediately!"

With that Moonshadow jumped down to end the meeting and walked over to check on Fallenbird and their kits. Falconpaw looked around the top of the gorge uneasily, those cats didn't sound like a simple threat, they put teeth and claws of what were probably old enemies in their collars. But Cherrytail was right, their clan was larger now, they could defend themselves.

Chapter 5

[image]

Toxic, Frost, and Plague sat at the edge of the twoleg place as they waited for Moonshadow to appear. They had built Bloodclan back up from the ruins their father Scourge had left them in, they were going to get revenge on the clans but unfortunately the ones the original Bloodclan had fought were gone. That's when they decided to come here. A plump kittypet called Smudge had informed them about Firestar going on a trip to restore another clan, that kittypet didn't live long after that. The three littermates had set out to destroy the clan Firestar had rebuilt, that cat killed their father so now they would kill what he rebuilt.

"Why should we trust this clan cat?" Frost hissed as he clawed at the ground impatiently.

Toxic hit him with his tail and growled. "Who says we do? As soon as we attack the clan we can kill him."

"Silence..." Plague ordered. "I can scent him."

The three went silent until Moonshadow settled down in front of them, he didn't appear nervous, of course why should he be? He thought the Bloodclan leaders were his friends.

"Follow me, I can show you the best spot to kill Sharpstar." Moonshadow told them.

"We've seen your territory!" Toxic's amber eyes flashed angrily and he lashed his gray paw out to hit the clan cat.

Moonshadow stepped back and growled. "You dare to attack the future leader?"

"Calm down. Both of you." Frost spat. "What happens if the other cats hear you? Our best weapon is surprise so don't ruin it!"

"Right... Follow me."

Plague stood up first and followed Moonshadow, almost blending into the night completely except for his white paw. The others followed, Frost's white pelt stood out so he stood in back behind Toxic, using his dark brown fur to hide. As they got closer to the camp Moonshadow would look around more often for any sign of his clan mates but all of them seemed to be asleep in their nests.

"See that cave down there." Moonshadow pointed out. "That's where Sharpstar sleeps. At sun high tomorrow most of the clan should be gone, you can attack then."

"Does he have nine lives like the older Bloodclan cats claim leaders have?" Plague inquired.

"No, he only has three left."

Toxic's eyes seemed to glow with anticipation. "One life for each of us."

"Right. But bring the rest of your cats to fend off the other warriors that might be here." Moonshadow gave them a sharp look. "Don't kill them. If I come back and see any of my clan dead besides Sharpstar I'll find and kill you."

Frost snarled at him but was cut off by the other two as they swatted at his muzzle, blood dripped down freely and Frost shook his head to get it off. Moonshadow watched the cats leave with a bad feeling, ignoring that he stayed at the camp entrance to guard it like the clan thought he was. None of them noticed the apprentice watching them from the bushes.

Sunlight came over the treetops and the clan started to wake up; Moonshadow padded down the slope and started organizing patrols. "Waspwhisker the dawn patrol can't wait for you all day!"

"Falconpaw's missing! He's not in camp."

Moonshadow tensed up. "Find him now!"

Waspwhisker nodded and took Moonshadow's concerned look to be

for the safety of the apprentice, not realizing the deputy was already planning on teaching Falconpaw a lesson for sneaking out. At the same time though he was also dreading what Waspwhisker's apprentice might've been doing sneaking out of camp. Waspwhisker left with the patrol while Moonshadow finished sending out the other patrols, after most of the cats in the camp were gone and only a few warriors were left Moonshadow went over to check on his kits and mate.

"You seem nervous what's wrong?" Fallenbird asked.

"Nothing... just worried. The camp doesn't have many warriors left to defend it, they're all hunting and on border patrol." Moonshadow lied.

She purred and nuzzled his shoulder while their kits ran around the clearing. "I'm sure we'll be safe."

Moonshadow backed away after licking her ear and walked away to wait until sun high. Then he would see how safe his mate and kits were, the clan mattered to him, it really did, but he'd rather them all die than let his family get hurt in this fight.

Chapter 6

[image]

At sun high loud yowls filled the air and Bloodclan cats started running down into the gorge, the warriors that remained let out shrieks of surprise and Sharpstar started ordering them to protect the queens and their kits.

"Kill them all!" Toxic hissed.

"Make sure none escape!" Frost added before charging at Sharpstar.

Moonshadow saw Falconpaw and Waspwhisker come running back into camp with the search patrol, he ran towards them as they joined the fight. "Go help Frecklewish and Clearpaw"

"But we need to get the other patrols!" Sandyflame exclaimed.

A large tabby attacked them but Waspwhisker and Birdscar fought them off, Moonshadow shoved Sandyflame towards the medicine cats' den. "Just go! I'll find the patrols!"

Moonshadow got lost in the fighting before circling around to find Waspwhisker rolling around as he fought a brown she-cat. He leapt at them and sent the Bloodclan cat reeling away before turning to face Waspwhisker.

"Thanks... they're tougher than I thought."

Moonshadow snarled at his clan mate and pinned him down. "What did Falconpaw tell you?"

"W-what?" Waspwhisker looked up at his deputy in shock. "Nothing!"

Moonshadow quickly checked to make sure no one was paying attention before biting the older warriors throat until he crushed the windpipe. Waspwhisker went limp and Moonshadow left to go find Sharpstar, it wasn't hard either, Plague, Frost, and Toxic were

surrounding him and taking turns with biting and clawing at the leader's flank.

"Moonshadow help!" Sharpstar called out over the sounds of the battle.

Moonshadow looked at him before turning towards the Bloodclan leaders. "Finish him."

Plague jumped onto the leaders back and clawed at Sharpstar's face, blood poured out of the wounds but Sharpstar still managed to throw off Plague. The black tom just got back on his feet and lunged forward like a snake and sank his teeth into Sharpstar's throat. Sharpstar let out a gurgled screech before going still.

"Is he gone?" Frost asked.

"No, I wanted to kill him!" Toxic yowled in anger.

"He'll come back." Moonshadow assured him. "He now has two lives left."

A few heartbeats later Sharpstar let out a raspy breath and looked at Moonshadow with hatred, before he could attack though Toxic slammed into his side and slashed open his stomach, drenching his one gray paw in blood. This time Sharpstar took longer to die, a few of the clan cats tried to help their leader but Bloodclan cats dragged them back into the fray.

Sharpstar blinked and leapt at Moonshadow as soon as he was healed. "You're a traitor!"

"My turn." Frost purred.

He bowled Sharpstar over and his brothers watched as the two became a bundle of ginger and white fur. Frost pinned Sharpstar down and shoved his muzzle into the ground; he dug his claws into Sharpstar's fur and began to shred his spine mercilessly until the leader's fur was crimson and no longer moving. Frost shook blood from his fur before going over to his brothers.

Furious yowls came from the top of the gorge as the patrols

returned, the fresh wave of warriors sent the Bloodclan cats running as they became outnumbered.

"Where are you going?" Plague growled. "Keep fighting!"

Moonshadow clawed at Plague's face and the Bloodclan leader snarled at him, before he could kill the deputy though a golden tabby she-cat ran over panting. "We can't fight them off! We have to retreat!"

"No we are Bloodclan not fox hearts. We won't back down."

"Look around, we won't accomplish anything like this."

Frost glanced at her. "Flare does have a point. We can come back."

Plague turned towards his brother, allowing Moonshadow to escape. "Why we can still win!"

Toxic shook his head. "Not now. Let's stick to what we're best at and stay hidden until we know we can fight them off."

"Fine... Bloodclan! Enough, we are leaving!" Plague yowled.

The Bloodclan cats looked up before running out of the camp, their leaders followed them quickly while listening to the Skyclan's victorious cheers. They only lasted a few minutes however as Hawkshriek cried out over the body of her son Shadepaw.

Frecklewish ran over to the apprentice and saw blood gushing out of the wound on his throat. "...Move I need to help him. Clearpaw go get me some cobwebs!"

The apprentice ran off and the clan became aware of Cherrytail and her kits Blizzardheart, Tigerflame, and Birchleap sitting around Sharpstar's body. Clearpaw looked at her kin but continued to help her mentor dress wounds. Falconpaw stayed by his dead mentor while Fallowfern buried her nose in Waspwhisker's fur.

"Moonshadow you have to go receive your nine lives." Frecklewish told him as she tended his wounds. "And appoint a deputy."

"I know." He snapped before standing up and going into the Whispering Cave.

It was almost moon high by the time Moonstar came back out; he walked over and touched Sharpstar's shoulder with his muzzle to show his respect before jumping onto the Rock pile.

"The time has come for me to appoint a new deputy. I say these words so that Sharpstar may hear and approve of my choice. Jayflight will be the new deputy of Skyclan!" The gathered cats cheered for Jayflight before going silent again. "I am also aware that Falconpaw and Shadepaw have lost their mentors, Falconpaw, Shadepaw, step forward. I call upon my warrior ancestors to give these apprentices new mentors. Falconpaw, Shadepaw, you have lost your mentors so your new mentors will be Creekfeather and myself."

The two young cats touched noses with their apprentices but Moonstar raised his tail so the clan would pay attention to them. "Spirits of Starclan you know every cat by name. I ask you now to take away Shadepaw's name for it no longer stands for who he is. By authority as clan leader, and with the approval of my ancestors, I give this cat a new name. From this point on he will be known as Deathpaw, for he survived a killing blow and deserves to be named after surviving a killing blow."

"Deathpaw, Deathpaw, Deathpaw!" The clan shouted together.

Deathpaw dipped his head as the cats called out his name before going to Sharpstar's body to sit vigil with the rest of the leader's kin while Falconpaw sat beside Fallowfern to grieve over his mentor. Moonstar saw Frecklewish whisper something into Clearpaw's ear while glancing at him before going back into her den. *I'll have to take care of her later.*

Allegiances updated

[image]

Skyclan

Leader- Moonstar: Silver tom black spots and silvery blue eyes. Mate to Fallenbird. 9 lives. 4 yrs. (Apprentice- Deathpaw)

Deputy- Jayflight: Blue eyed tom with a light blue gray pelt. 4 yrs. (Apprentice- Fangpaw)

Medicine cat- Frecklewish: Mottled light brown tabby she-cat with spotted legs. 7 yrs. (Apprentice- Clearpaw)

Warriors-

Sparrowpelt: Dark brown tabby tom. 8 yrs.

Cherrytail: Tortoiseshell and white she-cat. Mate to Sharpstar. 8 yrs.

Fallowfern: Pale brown she-cat. Mate to Waspwhisker. 8 yrs.

Rockshade: Black tom with a torn ear. Mate to Mintfur. 7.5 yrs.

Bouncefire: Ginger tom. 7.5 yrs.

Tinycloud: Small white she-cat. 7.5 yrs.

Egg: Cream colored tom. 7 yrs.

Sagefur: Pale gray tom. 7 yrs.

Mintfur: Gray tabby she-cat. Mate to Rockshade. 7 yrs.

Hawkshriek: She-cat with yellow eyes and dark brown fur. Mate to Egg. 6.5 yrs

Rabbitleap: Brown tom. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Dustpaw)

Creekfeather: Gray tabby tom. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Falconpaw)

Nettlesplash: Pale brown tom. Mate to Birdscar. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Goldenpaw)

Plumwillow: Dark gray she-cat. 6.5 yrs.

Sandyflame: Light colored she-cat with darker tail tip, legs, and ears. 6 yrs.

Honeyfur: Light colored she-cat. 6 yrs.

Birdscar: Black she-cat with a gray muzzle and a scar over one eye. Mate to Nettlesplash. 6 yrs.

Stormflash: Gray and Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs.

Firespirit: Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs.

Harrypelt: A gray tom with a paler gray muzzle and underbelly. 5.5 yrs.

Blizzardheart: She-cat with tabby patches across her white fur. 3.5 yrs.

Tigerflame: Ginger tom with gray stripes. 3.5 yrs.

Birchleap: Tom with a light tan pelt. 11 moons.

Apprentices-

Clearpaw: Pure white she-cat with blue eyes. 11 moons.

Dustpaw: Tom with dark sand colored fur. 8 moons.

Falconpaw: Tom with a black and brown pelt along with two different colored eyes. 8 moons.

Fangpaw: Tom with dark brown fur and yellow eyes. 6 moons.

Goldenpaw: Tom with light golden-brown pelt. 6 moons.

Deathpaw: Tom with dark brown fur and light patches of cream fur. 6 moons.

Queens-

Fallenbird: Green eyed she-cat with light brown fur. Mate to Moonshadow. 5.5 yrs. (Kits-Bluekit, Talonkit, Flamekit.)

Nightwing: Black she-cat with amber eyes. Mate to Sunglow. 3 yrs.

Elders-

Patchfoot: Black and white tom with green eyes. 10 yrs.

Shrewtooth: Skinny black tom. Had to retire early due to a leg injury. 7.5 yrs.

BloodClan

Leaders- Toxic: Tom with a dark brown pelt, amber eyes, and one gray paw.

Frost: White tom with a jet-black paw.

Plague: Black tom with a white paw.

Deputy- No official deputy.

Medicine cat- None, fend for yourself.

Fighters-

Scar: Tom with long scar on his side.

Wilt: Brown she-cat.

Newt: Speckled tom. Mate Ivy.

Apple: Russet tom.

Rubble: Gray tom.

Snow: Silver she-cat.

Venom: Long toothed tom.

Maple: Calico she-cat.

Skull: She-cat with part of her bone sticking out of her leg.

Blood: Tom with orange eyes and black fur. Mate Flare

Shade: Black she-cat.

Snake: Skinny light brown tom.

Queens-

Flare: Golden tabby. Mate Blood. (Kits- Raven, Holly, Wolf.)

Ivy: Black she-cat with one eye. Mate Newt. (Kits- Crow, Ember, Fox.)

Tribe of Rushing Water

Leader/ Healer- Teller of Pointed Stones

Cave-guards

(Moss) that grows by river. Female.

(Night) of no stars. Female.

(Pebble) that rolls down mountain. Female.

(Rock) Beneath still water. Male. Mate Wing.

(Rain) that passes quickly. Female.

(Lark) that sings at dawn. Female. Mate Dark.

Prey-hunters

(Flight) of startled heron. Female.

(Screech) of angry owl. Male.

(Splash) when fish leaps. Female.

(Storm) clouds at dusk. Male.

(Wing) shadow over water. Female. Mate Rock.

(Dark) shadow on water. Male. Mate Lark.

(Snow) falling on stones. Female.

(Pine) that clings to rock. Male.

To-be's

(Cloud) above waterfall. Male. To-be prey-hunter.

(Darkness) sent by eagle. Male. To-be cave-guard.

(Shadow) of bird's wing. Female. To-be prey-hunter.

(Dawn) sun rising overhead. Female. To-be cave-guard.

Elders

(Brook) Where small fish swim. Female. Mate Stormfur.

(Stormfur) Male. Mate Brook.

(Gray) sky before dawn. Female.

Thunderclan

Leader- Bramblestar: 9 lives.

Deputy- Squirrelflight

Medicine cat- Jayfeather

Warriors-

Graystripe

Dustpelt

Sandstorm

Brackenfur

Brightheart

Cloudtail

Millie

Thornclaw

Leafpool

Birchfall

Whitewing

Hazeltail

Lionblaze

Foxleap

Toadstep

Rosepetal

Blossomfall

Bumblestripe

Dovewing

Cherryfur

Moleclaw

Queens-

Daisy

Cinderheart (kits- Softkit, Ashkit, Badgerkit)

Ivypool

Elders-

Purdy

Shadowclan

Leader- Rowanstar: 8 lives.

Deputy- Crowfrost

Medicine cat- Acornshade

Warriors-

Oakfur

Smokefoot (Apprentice- Darkpaw)

Toadfoot

Applefur

Ratscar

Tawnypelt

Owlclaw

Kinkfur

Ivytail

Scorchfur

Tigerheart

Dawnpelt (Apprentice- Marshpaw)

Pinenose

Ferretclaw

Starlingwing

Apprentices-

Darkpaw

Marshpaw

Elders-

Snaketail

Whitewater

Windclan

Leader- Onestar

Deputy- Emberfoot

Medicine cat- Kestrelflight (Apprentice- Whisperpaw)

Warriors-

Crowfeather

Owlwhisker

Whitetail

Nightcloud

Weaselfur

Harespring

Leaftail

Heathertail

Swallowtail

Sunstrike (Apprentice- Grasspaw)

Furzepelt

Boulderfall

Apprentices-

Whisperpaw

Grasspaw

Elders-

Tornear

Riverclan

Leader- Mistystar: 4 Lives.

Deputy- Reedwhisker

Medicine cat- Willowshine

Warriors-

Mintfur

Icewing

Pebblefoot

Minnowtail

Robinwing

Duskfur (Apprentice- Scalepaw)

Mosspelt

Beetlewhisker

Grasspelt

Hollowflight

Troutstream

Mossyrock

Rushsplash

Apprentices-

Scalepaw

Queens-

Petalfur

Elders-

Pouncetail

Other Cats/ Animals

Billystorm: Left clan after his mate Leafstar died but occasionally shows up to see his kits.

Chapter 7

[image]

That night Falconpaw's dream was restless, blood and death of prey and cats alike was all around his as he followed the outline of an unidentified cat in front of him. *Looking above the moon was a bloody red color giving almost no light to see by. A light appeared up ahead and the other cat stopped, Falconpaw could hear them snarling at the light source before getting swatted down. Another figure of a cat came into view, this one gave off light, two more walked up behind it and they glanced in Falconpaw's direction. Falconpaw thought about running but something about these cats made him feel safe, like all the terrible things in his dream weren't there.*

"Falconpaw follow us." A familiar voice, his mentor's voice, spoke up.

He quickly did as he was told and followed the three star furred cats into a brighter landscape, it looked like they were above the gorge but when Falconpaw looked around all he saw was barren territory, though he swore he could see the occasional tail flick into a den below or feel eyes watching him.

"Waspwhisker, why are you speaking to me? Did I die?" Falconpaw asked.

"No Falconpaw, you're still alive. Star Clan has a message for you." His mentor purred.

"Really, what is it?"

The other cats stepped forward and Falconpaw finally recognized them as Sharpstar and Sunglow. Sharpstar touched his nose in greeting before stepping back. "Falconpaw Star Clan had a prophecy that was given to the medicine cats of your clan. Now the time for it has finally started."

"Why are you telling me this? I'm not a medicine cat!" Falconpaw replied.

Sunglow twitched his tail. "They haven't told him of course he wouldn't know."

"The prophecy says that the sun will disappear and the moon will turn red with blood, during this time enemies will stir and prey will hide in fear. To save the clan the falcon must travel farther than where the origin began and into the land of beyond." Sharpstar explained.

Falconpaw looked at them with wide eyes. "What does that all mean? Are you telling me I'm the falcon it speaks of?"

"Yes." Waspwhisker nodded. "You will save Skyclan."

"Why did you make Moonstar leader if he's so evil?" Falconpaw demanded.

"Because he was the rightful deputy therefore because I appointed him deputy using the right words he became the next leader." Sharpstar hissed lightly at his mistake. "I only wish I could have seen his darkness before I appointed him."

"It's okay." Sunglow told him. "He was my brother and I couldn't see it."

"So am I supposed to leave the clan?" Falconpaw interrupted.

"Eventually. When the time is right." Waspwhisker replied.

"How will I know when to leave?"

His mentor purred. "You will know when because then it will be important and a matter of survival."

The three starry cats began to fade and Falconpaw tried to ask them about the prophecy again but it was too late, they had faded away along with the Star Clan hunting grounds around him.

Falconpaw woke up in his nest and got up quickly to look outside the den, his clan was going about their normal day as if the attack had never happened. Some of the cats were lying around after being ordered to rest and let their wounds heal but other than that and some blood still on the ground it looked like it usually did in camp.

The only thing he was curious about was where his new mentor Creekfeather was. They should be training right?

"Hey Dustpaw!" He ran over to his brother who was dropping prey on the pile.

"What?"

"Have you seen Creekfeather? I thought I'd be out training by now."

Dustpaw thought for a moment. "I think I saw him going on patrol just a few heartbeats ago as the hunting patrol I was in came back."

"Do you think he forgot about me?" Falconpaw let his tail droop. "Or maybe he doesn't think I'm worth training."

"Of course you're worth training!" His brother exclaimed. "You're the second best apprentice."

"Are you saying you're the first?"

"Yes." Dustpaw's whiskers twitched in amusement. "Why do you sound so surprised?"

"Because I'm better at climbing trees and battle training than you are." Falconpaw pointed out.

"But I'm better at hunting." Dustpaw argued.

"Dustpaw get over here!" Rabbitleap yowled. "You need to come help collect the rest now stop sharing tongues."

"Well I guess I better go..."

"Yeah... Wait, I might as well help!" Falconpaw ran after him. "You know since Creekfeather isn't around to tell me what I should do."

"Maybe we'll run into him on the way." Dustpaw agreed.

"We better." Falconpaw said as he thought of the prophecy and what he would have to do to fulfill it. "I need to get as much training in as I can."

Dustpaw nodded in agreement, though he only thought the reason was so Falconpaw would pass the assessment. Little did either of them know that the time they had left together before the real storm came was almost up.

Chapter 8

Moonstar padded into Frecklewish's den and saw her sitting there alone almost like she'd been expecting him. "Where's your apprentice?"

"Collecting herbs." Frecklewish replied and flicked her tail. "Is there something you wanted to speak with him about?"

"No... Let's go on a walk, shall we. There is something I wish to speak with you about." Moonstar turned and began running up the path of the gorge; he didn't have to turn his head to know that the medicine cat was following him.

"What is it you want to talk about?" Frecklewish asked as she caught up with him.

"About the Bloodclan attack... Did our ancestors warn you about it?"

"No. They haven't shared anything with me."

Moonstar turned and shoved her to the ground with his claws at her throat. "I don't believe you. Ever since I became deputy you've been keeping a closer eye on me."

"I'm just making sure you don't get killed, Skyclan needs its leader to stay around for a long time." Frecklewish swatted at his muzzle and tried to get free.

"I don't think that's the truth." Moonstar dug his claws in deeper. "You know medicine cats are supposed to share things with their clan leader."

"You are an evil cat!" Frecklewish hissed. "Starclan warned you would bring bloodshed onto our clan!"

"It is true I wished to be leader, but that does not mean I won't make a good one. Skyclan needed me to be their leader. I will lead them and make them strong again!"

"For what? We don't have any enemies!"

"Yet but what happens if the rats come back? Or another enemy comes?" Moonstar questioned.

"Sharpstar or Sunglow would've handled it better than you." Frecklewish spat.

"Shame we won't see if that had been true." Moonstar raised his paw and in one smooth motion sliced his claws across her throat.

He left her body near the twoleg place and cleaned the blood off his paws before catching a bird and taking it back to camp for his mate. Fallenbird looked up from where she was lying in the sun watching their three kits run around, Moonstar dropped the prey at her paws and lay down beside her.

"Look at them." Moonstar purred. "Our little warriors."

"Not until six moons." Fallenbird purred.

"Of course..." Moonstar agreed.

"Has anyone seen Frecklewish or Clearpaw?" Sandyflame yowled as she ran into the camp. "Nightwing has started her kitting!"

Moonstar stood up and ran over. "Why is there a queen out of camp? We just had a battle it isn't safe!"

"She just wanted to stretch her legs." Sandyflame explained quickly. "Stormflash and Blizzardheart are still with her waiting for me to get help."

"The medicine cats aren't in camp right now." Moonstar hissed. "Go find them I'll get a patrol to help."

Sandyflame nodded and ran back up the cliff while Moonstar looked at the remaining cats in camp. "Deathpaw, Creekfeather, and Birdscar come with me!"

The cats he'd called nodded and ran after him as he led the way back out of camp, Moonstar scented the air and quickly found a

faint trace of Clearpaw's scent from when she'd left camp that morning. Luckily it was in the opposite direction as the direction where Frecklewish's body was because at the moment the clan didn't need another problem. They finally tracked down the medicine cat apprentice peacefully picking herbs in the forest beside a stream, Clearpaw looked up as they approached and stood up.

"Moonstar, what are you doing out here? Hunting patrol?" Clearpaw greeted.

"In a way." Moonstar replied. "Nightwing has started kitting out of camp and we need your help with her."

"Show me the way!" Clearpaw ordered with purpose in her gaze. "Birdscar go to the medicine den and fetch borage leaves, Creekfeather go find a sturdy stick for Nightwing to bite down on!"

Moonstar led his apprentice and Clearpaw back out of the forest and had them spread out until they caught Sanyflame's scent along with the other cats in her patrol. They put on a burst of speed until they came to a clearing in the trees where they found Stormflash and Blizzardheart trying to comfort Nightwing as she yowled in pain.

"Move." Clearpaw ordered. "Go find Creekfeather and bring him back here."

"What about Birdscar?" Deathpaw asked. "She doesn't know where we are."

"Then go back to camp so you can show her the way!" Clearpaw snapped before going back to running his paw over Nightwing's belly. "There are three kits."

Creekfeather reappeared a few heartbeats after Nightwing let out a shriek of pain and laid the branch for her to bite down on. Soon Clearpaw was placing a small golden furred bundle at Moonstar's paws. "Lick it until it starts breathing."

Moonstar obeyed silently and glanced as a black kit with golden

specks was sat at Stormflash's paws. Nightwing let out a final yowl before shuddering one last time and going completely still. Clearpaw gave the last kit to Blizzardheart before turning back to the queen and running his paw on her stomach one last time.

"You're done Nightwing." She purred to the queen in comfort before feeling how cold her fur was getting. "No..."

"What's wrong now?" Moonstar asked as he glared at the medicine cat.

"She's dead." Clearpaw murmured.

"She rests in Starclan now..." Creekfeather sighed sadly. "netN

Chapter 9

[image]

Falconpaw heard screeches and looked up from his fresh kill as Creekfeather carried Nightwing's lifeless body down into the gorge and the others followed with three kits in their jaws. He followed as the clan gathered below the rock pile and Moonstar jumped up to the top to call a meeting.

"Nightwing has given birth to three kits, Clearpaw claims they're healthy but as their mother is with Starclan now Fallenbird has agreed to take them in." Moonstar informed all of the gathered cats. "Also a patrol has informed me of Bloodclan scent in our territory. We will increase patrols everywhere and never leave the camp undefended in case they attack again."

"That won't be necessary Moonstar." A growl rose up from the camp entrance where Toxic stood with the body of Frecklewish at his paws. "I believe this is our territory now not yours."

"Skyclan, attack!" Moonstar yowled as he leapt off the rock pile and towards the Bloodclan cats that were filling the gorge.

Falconpaw stayed at his brother's side as they fought the Bloodclan cats, a gray tom jumped forward out of the chaos and slashed at Dustpaw's face before he could defend himself. Falconpaw lunged forward and bit the tom on the shoulder to drag him off his brother to allow him to recover, the older cat however snarled at him and collapsed onto his side to squash the apprentice beneath him.

"Falconpaw!" Dustpaw called out, as he shook blood out of his eyes.

Another cat, this one a silver she cat, joined their fight. "Rubble, why are you bothering with these pathetic kits? Don't you want to fight the real warriors?"

"Snow." Rubble greeted his sister as he got back to his paws and pinned Falconpaw to the ground by his throat. "You know our

orders, kill everyone who gets in our way. Including these kits."

"We are not kits!" Dustpaw yowled in anger and jumped onto Rubble's back.

Falconpaw felt the Blood clan cat's weight lift off his throat and gasped for breath, by the time he recovered however he was too late to stop what happened next. One moment Dustpaw was clawing and scratching like a patrol of warriors as he fought the two cats and the next he was being torn apart. Rage clouded his thoughts as he looked at the bloody mass of dark sand colored fur lying on the ground. His brother had just been murdered in front of him and he hadn't been able to do anything.

"One left, shouldn't be a problem to kill him off." Snow snarled, a new gash on her shoulder.

Rubble hissed as he joined in on the stalk towards Falconpaw, keeping his weight off his back paw. "Time for the kit to join his friend."

"He was my brother!" Falconpaw spat as he backed away and looked for any chance of being able to hold them off.

Suddenly a shadow flew across the ground as Creekfeather jumped off a rock and bowled Snow over in a flurry of claws and teeth. "Stay away from my apprentice you crow food eater!"

Falconpaw turned to face his remaining opponent and puffed out his fur in a threatening manner. "Not so tough without your back up are you?"

"I'll show you how tough I am kit!" Rubble snarled back and slashed his claws out, catching the apprentice on the side.

Falconpaw recoiled a bit as they continued to circle each other before sliding forward, staying close to the ground and leaping into the air right before he slammed into Rubble's flank, he crashed down on the tom's spine and dug his front claws into the gray tom's shoulders while churning his back paws to injure his opponent. Rubble yowled in pain and began to roll over to crush Falconpaw

again but this time he was ready and jumped off. He sliced his claws into Rubble's underbelly but wasn't able to do too much damage before being kicked away, the breath was knocked out of his when he landed and sharp teeth soon gripped the back of his neck. The only thing that saved his life was Plague's call for the battle to stop.

"Enough, Blood clan, we are leaving!" Plague announced.

Frost stepped forward, passing Moonstar's body that was lying on the ground as he recovered from losing a life. "Skyclan has until dawn to surrender. If you don't we will kill you all."

"So if I were you I would remember this fight and plan carefully for the decision." Toxic finished as they began their accent out of the once again bloody camp.

Falconpaw panted as he dragged himself to his paws and over to his brother's body, Rabbitleap was already beside his apprentice with grief clouding his eyes. "I should have been there to save him."

Falconpaw sat beside him. "He saved me... and I just watched him die..."

"It wasn't anyone's fault." Creekfeather replied as he padded over, silver fur clumping the space between his claws.

Moonstar hobbled over to the rock pile and weakly called out the words to signal a gathering. "We have been warned... This battle was unnecessary as will the one at dawn if we don't give in."

Yowls of protest sounded from the gathered cats below, none louder however than Jayflight. "We can't just give in! This is our home!"

"I will not watch more cats die!" Moonstar growled as he scanned the four unmoving bodies of Dustpaw, Frecklewish, Tinycloud, and Harrypelt. "I am doing what is best for the clan! I will not lose more lives."

Moonstar beckoned to Clearpaw. "We have lost our medicine cat, Clearpaw, you are Frecklewish's apprentice. It is time you have your full name, I know this is not the proper why for you to receive it

but your mentor is dead and as your leader I will perform the ceremony."

"Of course Moonstar." Clearpaw stepped forward.

"I Moonstar, leader of Skyclan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the way of a medicine cat, and with your help she will serve her clan for many moons to come. Clearpaw, do you promise to uphold the medicine cat code, to stand away from rivalry upon clan and clan?"

"I do." She replied confidently.

"Then by the power of Starclan I will give you your true medicine cat name. Clearpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Clearpool. Starclan honors your confidence and spirit."

The clan cheered for their new medicine cat, though the grim mood could still be felt, and Moonstar raised his tail for silence. "Dustpaw was a good apprentice. He joined our ancestors too soon. Rabbitleap, do you think your apprentice fought well in his last moments?"

Rabbitleap nodded. "I do."

"Then I Moonstar, leader of Skyclan, ask my warrior ancestors to accept this apprentice. He has learned the warrior code and gave his life in the service of his clan. Starclan I ask that you receive him as a warrior. He will be known as Dustrunner."

The clan once again called out the fallen apprentice's, now warrior's, name somberly while Falconpaw and Rabbitleap stayed by the body to sit vigil. Moonstar jumped down from the rock pile and Clearpool began her duty of patching up the injured cats as quickly as she could by herself, though she constantly glanced at her dead mentor's body with grief filled eyes.

Chapter 10

[image]

Falconpaw looked around the ruins of their camp; a moon's time had done a lot of damage to the once powerful clan. Blood clan had moved in, from where he sat outside his old den he could see Flare's kits Raven, Holly, and Wolf tearing apart a robin that their father Blood had brought back for them. Ivy's kits Crow, Ember, and Fox where prowling around near the water, occasionally swatting at each other with their claws stretched out as far as they could go, Ivy herself was correcting their moves from where she was lying in a patch of sunlight nearby. The rest of his clan were under heavy guard every time they left camp to hunt, the ones he could see in the camp at the moment were huddled opposite the Blood clan cats and muttering among themselves.

"Do you think they're planning another attack?" Deathpaw asked as he padded out of the den.

"I don't know." Falconpaw shook his head. "I hope not. We can't survive another battle, not with them in our camp."

"Moonstar could beat them."

"Toxic, Plague, and Frost keep him in his den." Fangpaw reminded his brother. "He wouldn't be able to escape without risking one of his lives."

"We aren't going to become warriors... are we?" Goldenpaw stated.

"I'm afraid not." Falconpaw replied. "With Blood clan here we won't be allowed to train. We should be lucky they didn't drive us out of our home."

"Let's go see if we can catch anything for the elders." Deathpaw suggested as he stood up.

"What if Wilt or Snake catch us?" Goldenpaw asked as he cast a

nervous look towards the brown she cat and skinny tom. "They'll shred us."

"Then I guess we won't get caught." Falconpaw replied. "Besides, we might not be in control of our camp anymore but we need to at least keep living by the warrior code until our last breath."

Falconpaw stood up and crept down the path with the other apprentices following close behind, he saw some of the cats glance at them before turning back to their conversations or skirmishes, completely ignoring them. When they got to the top of the gorge however they were faced with the two guards Snake and Wilt.

"And where do you four think you're going?" Snake snarled down at them.

Goldenpaw trembled slightly under the tom's glare but Falconpaw stepped forward. "Hunting. Unless you're going to catch something for us."

Wilt hissed at them. "Watch your tongue."

"Of course you can hunt for yourselves." Snake replied but narrowed his eyes. "Of course, you still need an escort... Skull! Apple!"

A russet furred tom and a she-cat with a bone sticking from her leg appeared from the path out of the gorge and nodded to Snake respectfully. "What is it?"

"Take these cats hunting, make sure it's only for themselves." Snake ordered.

Apple nodded and took the lead; Falconpaw followed him and cast a glance back at Skull as she took up the rear of their patrol. The would have to find a way to get rid of the two Blood clan cats if they were to bring food back to the elders, Skull would be easier to take out with her old leg injury, but Apple was experienced and well muscled, he would be a challenge. They finally stopped walking once they reached the edge of the forest, Apple turned around and waited for Skull to join him at the front of the patrol before sitting down.

"Go hunt for your meal... but keep in mind, you might not see us, but we will be watching you." Apple let out a menacing growl towards the end.

Falconpaw gave a submissive nod and took off into the forest with the others behind, the spread out but stayed within earshot of each other, Falconpaw scented the air for prey scent and quickly caught the smell of a blue jay. He followed the scent trail until he saw a flash of blue land on a branch in a tree to his right. Falconpaw stalked forward silently, making sure the wind was blowing in his direction as well as making sure the bird couldn't see him; after all, birds would see you before smelling you. He climbed a nearby tree and walked along the branches until he was positioned over the branch the bird was on, pausing one last time to get into position, he dropped down from his branch and caught the bird under his paws. Falconpaw quickly killed it and climbed down from the tree, he buried the fresh kill in the dirt below before searching once again for more prey.

This time mouse scent hit his nose and he spotted the small creature scuffling around in leaves a few fox lengths ahead, Falconpaw began moving towards in a hunter's crouch. Large wing beats made him jump up however and he saw a falcon swoop down and attack the mouse. He leapt forward as well and tangled his claws into the bird's wing before it could rise back into the air, the falcon shrieked in panic and Falconpaw felt pain spread through his head and ear as the bird's talons clawed him. This only made him dig in his claws tighter and lunged at the falcon's throat for the killing bite. There was a crunch and the bird stilled its mad thrashing, Falconpaw let go and backed away from his kill, he flicked a drop of blood that was forming on his ear and was about to clean his wounds when a rustling sound made him freeze. He growled threateningly until he caught a familiar scent of herbs as Clearpool walked out of the undergrowth.

"What are you doing here?" Falconpaw asked, glancing around nervously. "If Apple or Skull see you they'll kill you."

"It doesn't matter." She replied. "This was a sign from Starclan."

"Looks like a lucky piece of fresh kill to me. Two pieces of prey with

one kill."

"Falconpaw, Starclan wishes for you to leave now. If you don't you will end up like this falcon... dead." Clearpool told him. "Go find help for our clan. Go find Firestar and the clans in the forest."

"That's so far away!" Falconpaw exclaimed. "I can't just leave."

"You must. Other wise Skyclan will be gone again."

He looked back in the direction of camp. "But what if I'm too late? When I come back... what if our clan is gone?"

"Then the survivors will rebuild it again." Clearpool promised. "Take the others with you and leave now. Before you lose your chance."

Falconpaw hesitantly nodded, if Starclan wished for him to fulfill the prophecy he wouldn't disappoint them. "Just make sure Fallenbird and the elders get the food we were hunting for them."

"I will try, may Starclan light your path." Clearpool told him before picking up the prey and walking away at an awkward gait thanks to her new load.

"And yours." Falconpaw replied, with the situation, he knew everyone would need Starclan to light their paths.

Falconpaw quickly ran off to find the others but heard a loud yowl and weight slammed down on his shoulders from above. He shrieked in pain as claws dug into his skin and tore at it, the shifted weight to one side told him it was Skull, he tried to throw her off but the she-cat was too heavy. He shrieked in pain again and went limp, Skull loosened her grip and he made his escape and ran, though he could hear Skull following him. Falconpaw collided with something furry and rolled across the ground before coming to a stop; he sat up dizzily and saw the dark brown fur of Fangpaw as he got to his paws.

"What is wrong with you?" Fangpaw exclaimed. "I was just about to catch a nice robin when you scared it off!"

"Find the others we need to leave." Falconpaw panted, he could

already hear Skull catching up.

Fangpaw heard it too and Falconpaw saw his eyes widen in shock. Before they could run again the Blood clan cat leapt forward and engaged back into the fight again, Falconpaw hissed and clawed Skull across the face as she bit into the side of his neck. Fangpaw's yowl for the other two apprentices rang in his ears but he didn't know if they heard because at that moment Skull managed to rake her claws down his flank. He staggered back in pain and waited for the killing blow to come but looked back up when it didn't. In front of his was the other three dragging Skull down in a whirling mass of fangs and claws, Deathpaw managed to pin her down with the help of his littermates and he glared down at Skull with hatred before sinking his fangs into the Blood clan cat's neck until a faint cracking sound came from it. They all stared down at the body before backing away and grouping beside Falconpaw, almost in complete shock at what had just happened.

"You killed her." Goldenpaw spoke up finally.

Deathpaw nodded. "... I did..."

"You broke the warrior code."

Falconpaw limped forward. "It doesn't matter now, we need to go. I'll explain what's happening on the way."

Chapter 11

The three other apprentices were looking up at him in shock of what he had told them; in fact they had stayed silent on the entire trip to the border of Skyclan territory. That was about the time they had been interrupted by Sparrowpelt and Firespirit as they ran out of the forest towards them.

"What are you four doing out here?" Sparrowpelt demanded with a stern look. "If any of the Blood clan cat's see you they will kill you."

Falconpaw flattened his ears as they were scolded. "Clearpool told us to leave to fulfill a prophecy to save our clan. We have to go."

"How do we know you aren't just running away?" Firespirit questioned.

"Honestly, we aren't." Fangpaw replied.

Deathpaw nodded in agreement before noticing something. "Why are you two out here with out an escort? How do we know you aren't running away like fox-hearts?"

"We were ordered to bring back a missing kit."

"Oh really and what kit was mousebrained enough to run from Blood clan?" Goldenpaw joined in the argument.

"That would be Wolf." Egg replied as he stepped out of the undergrowth with a tan furred kit by his side looking rather undignified.

"I was hunting to make Blood and Flare proud! If it wasn't for you I would have caught that mouse!" Wolf hissed.

"What's going on here?" Egg asked, ignoring the kit's comments as he took in the situation.

"These apprentices think it's a good idea to go off on a journey to find help to save our clan." Firespirit responded. "Completely mousebrained."

Egg tilted his head to the side as he thought about it for a moment. "But don't we need help? Would it not be help to let them leave so they are out of harms way here and doing something to broaden our numbers by bringing back more cats?"

"Clearpool told us to find the other clans for help." Falconpaw informed him. "That's where we're going. If the nursery stories about how Firestar found us are true then we'll be able to follow the river and find them."

"You are just apprentices though." Sparrowpelt reminded them. "You don't know how to defend yourself completely."

"Come with us." Fangpaw suggested. "Then we'll have a skilled fighter."

"We can't just abandon our clanmates."

"But we wouldn't be." Egg pointed out. "We're just leaving for a moon or so and coming back to them with help."

"We should be able to drive out Blood clan on our own." Firespirit snapped at him.

Wolf glared at the ginger she-cat. "My clan is much stronger than yours. I don't understand why Skyclan is even still around."

"Get him back to camp." Sparrowpelt ordered Egg. "Firespirit, I say we go with these four to help."

"What?" Her eyes widened. "But our clanmates could pay for us leaving."

"I know, but we will all pay eventually if we stay. We need to have faith in them and our ancestors to stay strong while we are away."

"Great, it's settled." Deathpaw stood up. "Let's get going."

"What do I tell the others?" Egg asked, referring to their Blood clan guard. "They'll notice two cats missing from a patrol."

"Tell them we ran off. They'll search for us but by then we should be gone." Sparrowpelt replied as he started to follow the apprentices. "Just make sure you take your time getting back to Venom and Snake."

"Like I would want to get back to those two foul cats in a hurry." Egg retorted before turning back into the shrubbery, making sure Wolf stayed in front of him so he couldn't run off again.

Firespirit caught up with Falconpaw and looked at the river ahead. "I wonder what we'll find up ahead."

"There is a twoleg place." Sparrowpelt told her as he padded on her other side. "Leafstar took us into battle there, one time against two groups of cats... in the end neither side won. Past there though, that will be a mystery to all of us."

"These twoleg place cats, they won't attack us right?" Goldenpaw asked as he walked beside his brothers.

"Not most of them. But I don't think we'll need to meet any of them anyway, the river goes around the twoleg place not through it."

Fangpaw looked up at the sky before back at the group. "Do you think our ancestors will really be following us?"

"I'm not sure how far our ancestors will follow, but I am sure they won't abandon us completely." Firespirit said.

"You're awfully quiet Deathpaw, something wrong?" Sparrowpelt asked as he looked at the young tom, who; now that he was paying attention, had blood covering his paws.

"I-I'm fine." Deathpaw replied not looking up. "Just thinking."

Falconpaw motioned for Firespirit and Sparrowpelt to fall back before telling them. "He killed Skull, I think he might be feeling a bit guilty for breaking the warrior code by killing another cat."

"It was self defense though wasn't it?" Sparrowpelt stated the question, his eyes sparked with understanding. "It wasn't just out of cold blood."

"Of course. We would have died if he hadn't done that."

Firespirit let out a faint hiss. "That Blood clan cat deserved it if you ask me."

"Perhaps." Was all Sparrowpelt said before catching up to the three younger apprentices to tell them about the twoleg place battle Leafstar had led them into.

Chapter 12

It had been a moon since the small group had left Skyclan's territory behind. Now they had followed the river past the twoleg place and, with the help of some loners, had managed to find the river again after getting lost and made it to where the forest should have been. Instead they found a large twoleg place standing in their way once more.

"Where's the forest?" Fangpaw asked as they sat crouched under a bush. "The loner said it was here... he never said anything about another twoleg place!"

"Calm down." Sparrowpelt told him. "We'll wait until night and try to find a nice longer or rouge who will help us."

"Why wait? Our clan mates could be starving... dying... because we decided to wait!" Falconpaw exclaimed. "We have to go now, at this point I'll even ask a kitty pet."

"Like a kitty pet would talk to us." Firespirit purred. "If they knew about the clans then they'll think we eat bones and kill them for fun."

"We have to try!"

Deathpaw nodded. "I agree. Just, not all of us should go together, we could intimidate them. If we go in smaller groups then they might be more willing to talk."

"Fine." Sparrowpelt gave in. "We split into two patrols of three. I'll lead one with Goldenpaw and Fangpaw, Firespirit you can take Falconpaw and Deathpaw."

"Meet back here by moonhigh." Firespirit instructed before guiding her patrol off towards the twoleg place where a small clump of trees still stood at the edge.

Falconpaw padded after his patrol as they quickly walked towards the clump of trees, jumping whenever they heard a twoleg. When they arrived however they found the place crawling with the furless creatures along with dogs running after round things and bringing them back to their twoleg.

"What is this place?" Deathpaw asked from where he stood watching the scene.

"Who cares, lets keep walking... and stay out of sight." Firespirit instructed before continuing her path along the bushes.

Falconpaw gave the clearing one last glance before following, his ears alert for any sign of a twoleg or dog about to attack them. Fortunately the group made it to the bottom of a fence without being spotted and took turns jumping onto it so they could see better, though it was uncomfortable to walk across the slim wood.

"Where are we going now? I don't see any cats." He spoke up as he looked across the expanse of twoleg dens.

"We go deeper." Firespirit replied before briskly walking along the fence.

The two apprentices glanced at each other before following the warrior into the maze of dens, on high alert for any signs of danger. Around sunhigh they had given up, none of the kitty pets or strays they had spoken with had known anything about the clans and they were on their way back to meet with Sparrowpelt's patrol when an old tabby queen with white paws and chest looked up from the grass in her garden with a curious look in her eyes.

"Are you the cats asking about the clans?" She asked as she stiffly stretched and jumped up to join them on the fence.

Deathpaw tensed up but the kitty pet wasn't a danger to them and he quickly relaxed. "Yeah, how did you know?"

"One of my kits heard a friend talking about it and came to tell me." The queen replied. "I'm Princess by the way, my brother and son are with the clans."

"I'm Firespirit." Firespirit spoke up, her eyes lighting up with interest. "Do you know where they are now?"

"My brother had to lead his clan out of the forest, it was being destroyed by what they called monsters... I believe they were heading for the mountains." Princess glanced at the large shapes in the distance. "I hope they're happy..."

"I'm sure they are." Firespirit nodded. "When we find them we'll tell them you hope they're doing well."

"Thank you." She purred before jumping down. "I hope you find them soon."

"So do I." Falconpaw muttered before speaking louder. "Can you tell us who they are?"

"My brother said his new name was Firestar, my son's is Cloudtail." Princess replied, a proud look flashing across her eyes. "This used to be the border to their territory... let them know Smudge has died too, he was a friend of Firestar's when he was a kitten."

"Don't worry, we will." Deathpaw waved his tail in farewell before running after the others. "I can't wait to tell Sparrowpelt, can you believe it; we just met the famous Firestar's littermate!"

"Yes and you two were sharing tongues with a kitty pet like she was your clan mate." Firespirit hissed. "We came for information not to send messages from one kin to another."

Falconpaw drew back his ears in shame. "Sorry, we didn't realize it was so wrong... she was nice and... and well, we just wanted to know more about her kin."

"Well now you do, so come on." She growled as she retraced their scent through the winding fences and the clearing of dogs.

When Sparrowpelt arrived back with his patrol at moonhigh they didn't have any news to report other than they ran into some dogs that had attacked them. Firespirit on the other hand gladly informed him about what Princess had told them about the clans traveling over the mountains to look for a new home.

"We get to go over mountains?" Goldenpaw's eyes widened. "This is going to be so fun! What kind of prey do you think lives there?"

"Who cares?" Fangpaw growled. "It means more walking and I'm exhausted

Sparrowpelt purred as the apprentice flopped onto his side. "Don't worry, we'll set off a little before sunhigh, you'll have plenty of time to rest."

"Thank Star Clan." Deathpaw responded before crashing to the ground as well.

Chapter 13

[image]

The small band of warriors and apprentices made it out of the twoleg place by sunhigh. They had hunted at dawn before setting off but at the sight of a small group of trees made them pause.

"We should hunt again." Sparrowpelt told them as he listened to the birds chirping in the branches. "We don't know how long it will be until we find a place to catch more prey."

"What about rogues or foxes?" Fangpaw asked as he scented the air for danger.

"Stay in groups, we'll go in the same patrols as before, meet back here once you've caught something." He said before gathering Fangpaw and Goldenpaw around him. "And stay alert, at least one cat should keep watch on the others while they hunt."

"They aren't kits, I'm sure they know what to do." Firespirit spoke up while flicking her tail in impatience. "Let's just go find some prey before it scents all of us."

Sparrowpelt went left, giving Firespirit's group the right side to the small forest, before vanishing into the green depths of the tall oak and maple trees. Firespirit padded into her part of the woods a heartbeat later with Falconpaw and Deathpaw behind her as she enjoyed the cool shade the leaves cast them in.

"You two can hunt first while I keep watch." She spoke up after they were a good distance from the edge of the forest. "Just stay in hearing distance of each other, if one of you is in trouble just yowl."

"Got it!" Falconpaw and Deathpaw replied before splitting up to track down prey.

Firespirit sat in a nice shaded patch under a tree and flickered her ears about as she listened to the two apprentices hunt. They were

nearly silent as she tracked their steps, so much that she eventually had to get up and scent for them to make sure they were still nearby. Deathpaw showed himself first after Firespirit had gone back to her original spot. He dropped a robin at his paws before lying down to eat it, a few heartbeats later Falconpaw arrived with a small fledgling sparrow in his jaws.

"Try the forest where Deathpaw was." Falconpaw informed her as he placed his prey on the ground. "There was a lot of prey scent there."

"Alright." She replied and took his advice by following Deathpaw's scent trail.

She slowed her trotting gait as the sound of birds chirping drew closer, the trees in this area were closer together and she could scent a variety of birds in the area. Firespirit climbed the nearest tree, passing two old bird's nests on her way up, which could explain the amount of bird song in the area, before resting on a branch and picking out a brightly colored blue jay in a tree over. She crept along the branch, the thick leaves hiding her ginger fur, until she was almost directly above her prey on a thick branch below her. The blue jay twitched its head around as it scanned the area, but before it could fly off and give an alarm call Firespirit leapt down and crunched down on its neck. She clambered down the branches and made her way back to where the two apprentices were waiting.

"Firespirit!" Deathpaw's yowl filled the air as she was about halfway back. "Fox!"

Firespirit's fur stood on end as she heard his screech before she began to run faster. As she got closer fox scent invaded her nose over the smell of her fresh kill, she looked around for Falconpaw and Deathpaw before spotting them up a tree and looking at a bush that was rustling violently as a large scarred up fox burst out of it. She froze as she saw the bushy tailed creature sniff the ground before looking up and snarling as it found her.

"Run!" Falconpaw shrieked as he crouched down closer to the branch he was on.

She dropped her prey on the ground and scrambled up the closest tree before feeling the fox's sharp, yellowed teeth catch the end of her tail and drag her back down. Firespirit shrieked in pain as she landed on her side, the fox had released her tail but was now standing over her with a hungry glint in its eyes. She clawed at its face and was satisfied as she heard a yelp as blood welled in its eye. The fox backed off with a growl and shook its head before turning to where she'd ran off to and slammed her back onto the ground before picking her up in its strong jaws. Before it could do anything else however, Sparrowpelt appeared with Fangpaw and Goldenpaw.

"Flank the left!" Sparrowpelt commanded the two before turning to Falconpaw and Deathpaw who were still in the tree. "Get its right!"

Firespirit was left on the blood stained ground as the fox was distracted by the new attacks. Sparrowpelt was bucked off and fell to the ground with a thud as the air was knocked out of him, she stood up and swiped at the fox before it could continue its attack and with a final snarl the wounded animal spun around and ran off into the bushes. The others stayed gathered around for a few heartbeats until they were sure the fox had left before letting their ruffled fur lie flat again.

"Is everyone alright?" Sparrowpelt asked as he shook blood and dirt from his fur.

Firespirit stopped licking her wounds to make a sharp retort, irritated that she'd allowed the fox to catch her. "I was bitten by a fox of course I'm not alright!"

He narrowed his eyes at her but responded calmly. "Can you at least continue?"

"Yes." She twitched her sore, bleeding tail and found her prey, which was slightly dusty but otherwise fine, where she left it and took a few quick bites before walking towards the entrance to the forest. "Let's get going before it comes back."

She heard them following closely behind her, it hadn't been hard for them to catch up with how much she was currently limping. Firespirit wanted nothing more but to rest in a night safe shaded

spot instead of walking back in the hot sun, but she couldn't let her clan down and any moment they stopped to rest while they could be continuing could mean death for another one of their clan mates. Up ahead the mountains were black as the sun started to set behind them. They were still a few nightfall's journey from where they currently were, they could've gotten there sooner if the fox hadn't taken up their time, but already she could see how large they were growing.

"What do you think we'll find there?" Fangpaw asked as he gazed at the dark tooth-like mountains ahead of them.

"Dangers." Sparrowpelt replied with certainty. "There's always something we need to watch out for, I'm not sure exactly what it will be out there but if and when we find it... we need to take any precautions to get out with our lives."

It was silent for a few moments before Goldenpaw spoke. "I wonder what kind of prey they'll be. I bet it won't taste as good as the prey in our territory."

"Well, we should find out in about three night falls." Firespirit replied as she tried to pick up her pace. "We just can't slack off any more than we have to."

Sparrowpelt came up to her side and leaned closer to her so the others wouldn't overhear. "Just don't strain yourself any more than you have to, if you make your injuries worse it could kill you."

Chapter 14

[image]

Sharp teeth grabbing the scruff of his neck rudely awaked Moonstar and dragging him from his den, he struggled in his attacker's grip before being dropped onto the dusty ground at Toxic's paws. He sent a cold glare at Frost, who had been the one to drag him out here, before turning it to Toxic.

"What do you want?" He growled, hatred for the Blood clan warriors grew every sunrise.

Toxic stared down at him with deadly amber eyes. "We found one of your warriors trying to hunt prey for an elder. That is not part of Blood clan life, meaning they will both be punished. I want you to call your clan out to watch what happens if they disobey our rules again!"

Moonstar hissed angrily and lashed his tail. "If you dare touch my warriors-"

He was cut off as Plague stood up from where he sat beside Toxic and swatted Moonstar's head, which allowed blood to well up on his muzzle. Moonstar wanted to attack the Blood clan leader right there but knew better when the other two were around, so instead he settled with another glare before leaping up onto the rock pile.

"All Skyclan cats who can walk join here beneath the rock pile for a meeting." Since Blood clan had taken over the wording had changed, it was no longer a clan meeting, nor was it only for cats who could catch their own prey, though in the Blood clan cats' opinion the kits should learn how soon enough despite them not being old enough.

The Blood clan cats were already staring expectantly at their leaders while the Skyclan cats slinked out of their dens where they had been escaping the sun high heat. Moonstar jumped down from the rock pile, stumbling as he landed. Like most of his cats, his ribs

showed and he knew he would lose another life soon if he kept sneaking his prey off to his mate Fallenbird. Toxic stepped forward and waved his tail from side to side to signal for Shade and Maple to bring the accused cats forward. Patchfoot slumped weakly to the ground, unable to stand anymore as Shade dropped him from her jaws, while his daughter Honeyfur struggled and spat until Maple dropped her onto the ground as well.

Toxic glowered down at the two cats before speaking to the gathered clan around him. "This cat has been accused of catching prey for another who is too weak to catch his own. As a result they must be punished and used as an example!"

The Blood clan cats gave yowls of approval but Moonstar noticed his clan mates sending him burning stares, mostly from Sandyflame and Birdscar, hating him for allowing this to happen. It didn't help his case that Birdscar's son had gone missing along with the other apprentices and two warriors and he knew she blamed him for their supposed deaths.

Plague gave a loud screech for silence before motioning for Toxic to continue. "Unfortunately only two of you will be able to kill them, now I know we have some very excited kits wanting to prove themselves, but your time with come later. Flare, Ivy, you have been nursing your kits... now it is time to show us you still have your skills."

Flare and Ivy stepped out of the crowd, their kits squirming around each other as they tried to get a good view of the fight about to take place. Flare and Ivy crouched down with their claws unsheathed and hackles raised as they stalked forward in the circle the cats around them had created. Ivy made the first move, swiping her claws at Patchfoot as he bushed up his fur and bared his teeth. Honeyfur leapt forward and bowled the black she-cat over, scratching the Blood clan cat's exposed belly with churning hind legs. Flare however, grabbed the back of Honeyfur's scruff before flinging her to the ground and quickly finishing the fight with another powerful bite to the neck.

Moonstar flinched as he heard the bone crack and watched helplessly as Honeyfur's eyes glazed over in death. He could feel

Frost's claws sink deeper into his tail, in warning on a more life threatening attack if he moved to help his warriors. To his surprise it was Egg who leapt from the crowd and shoved Ivy away from Patchfoot, as she had recovered and went back to finish him while Honeyfur had been distracted. Egg was merciless in his attacks but this time Flare didn't intervene to help Ivy, instead choosing to split Patchfoot open from throat to belly with sharp claws.

"No!" Egg yowled as he saw the elder collapse to the ground.

His pause in attack gave Ivy the chance to squirm out from under his paws but she slumped to the ground a heartbeat later to Moonstar's satisfaction and didn't get up again as her flank grew still. Flare turned to face Egg but froze as Toxic stepped forward.

"The accused are dead, though I do not approve of this clan cat interfering he showed savage skill." Toxic glowered at Egg, who only stared back defiantly, ready to kill again if needed. "Therefore we shall move on at this heartbeat. Blood clan now has two positions open for the kits to fill, this wasn't always a tradition but as a leader of Blood clan and descendant to Scourge I order for the kits to now prove themselves that they can have a place in this sanctuary. Only two may live and the losers will either die in battle or be chased off to fend for themselves."

The two litters of Blood clan kits glanced at each other before immediately separating themselves and giving low growls to former friends and kin. Moonstar couldn't help but notice Newt's faint look of fear and agony as he took in his mate's dead body and Toxic's decree. Flare didn't seem to pleased with the idea either but it was her mate Blood who seemed more distressed as his ears and tail kept twitching while his eyes widened. Moonstar was a bit shocked when he didn't do anything let alone speak up; then again he was a Blood clan cat. They never stopped cats from killing one another.

Fox was the first one to be killed. He had been about to attack Wolf when Raven tackled him away from her brother and began swiping blindly across his face and throat until the smaller kit had grown still. Despite saving her brother Raven was the second to go, her own brother, Wolf, landing on her back and biting down hard on the back of her neck until she went limp. Ember, who Moonstar had

noticed at the edge of the fighting kits, had his fur fluffed up in fear and didn't hesitate to run off as he saw his sister, Crow, pelting towards him with bloody claws outstretched. Holly intercepted Crow and hissed to show bloody needle like teeth before lunging for her once-friend's throat. On Crow's behalf, she managed to defend herself for a few heartbeats but Holly was still larger and easily used her weight and size to defeat Crow. Moonstar knew that if Crow had been taught to use her speed she could've had a chance, but with Blood clan it was fight dirty and use your power not cunning... not usually at least.

Plague didn't seem pleased with the short kit fight but yowled to end the fight before Wolf or Holly killed each other. "We have our new members! Wolf, Holly, you have proven you can survive in a battle. As a leader of Blood clan and descendant to Scourge, I welcome you."

"Now for the clan kits..." Toxic's eyes gleamed menacingly. "Two of your clan mates have died... unfortunately for their crimes that means only one of you may live. Now, either your parents may decide and kill the rest of you... or you can fight like a real cat would and prove you should be the one to live."

Moonstar snarled and ripped himself away from Frost to attack Toxic. "Leave our kits alone!"

Toxic screeched and caught Moonstar in the head. "How dare you!"

Moonstar shook his head to clear it and prepared to lunge again only to be double teamed by Frost and Plague as they pounced on him and began to shred his fur until it was slick with blood and he no longer moved.

Moonstar blinked awake to see Sunglow standing before him in Starclan, around him stood the other cats that had died since he became leader. "I can't lose a life now, my kits could be killed!"

Sunglow narrowed his eyes and stalked forward. "Any cat could be killed as long as Blood clan is in camp if you're alive or not! If you hadn't allowed your jealousy of me to get in your way our clan would be safe! I gave you a life to show compassion and loyalty, all I've seen since

you became leader is your cowardice and murder of our clan mates."

Moonstar hissed in irritation and lashed his tail. "What do you expect me to do? My clan is starving around me, I'm down to five lives, and Blood clan doesn't follow our code about not killing... I can't do anything to protect them without getting more cats killed!"

Waspwhisker shook her head from where he sat. "You have four lives left, you are losing two at once. As for what we expect you to do... well saving your clan is out of your paws now, help will come, but from far away. We need you to use all your lives if you must to protect the remains of your clan."

"But what happens if I die for good? Jayflight won't be able to get his nine lives, Toxic, Plague, and Frost won't allow it."

"Help will come." Waspwhisker replied before the starlight faded.

Moonstar blinked awake to Fallenbird's pelt pressed against him, her face was buried in his flank as she trembled. He shifted so she had to face him and Moonstar could see the grief in her eyes.

"Our kits are dead...!" Her quiet yowl trembled.

Moonstarfelt rage surge through him and he stood up, ignoring his mate's pleading tostay and rest, before going to the middle of the clearing where the bodies ofthe dead cats had been left. He padded by Ivy, Honeyfur, Crow, Raven, and Fox,before stopping as he saw four more bodies lying on the ground, none of themolder than two moons. His kits: Talonkit and Flamekit, were covered in blood,their tiny mouths open as blood trickled from them. His brother's kits:Shimmerkit, Brackenkit, and Twilightkit, weren't in any better condition. Hefelt better knowing at least one of his kits, Bluekit, had survived, but at thesame time guilt was now gnawing at him because he hadn't been able to savemore. He limped off back over to Fallenbird, feeling more defeated everypawstep, and gently licked her head in comfort before lying back down besideher and Bluekit, who had been hiding in her fur earlier so he couldn't see him.For the moment he would allow himself to grieve for what happened, but startingat dawn tomorrow he would try to slow Blood clan's path of death down to allowhelp its time to come.

Chapter 15

[image]

They were finally in the mountains, it took them a half moon to get a good distance into them and they had soon learned there was little prey. Falconpaw shivered as wind whipped through his fur. His clan mates were shivering around him as they walked until they finally reached a point where they could go no further. They had almost missed it but as he ran ahead to look for the thin path a root had tripped him up, as he got up he noticed the edge he'd almost walk over.

"Another jump." Sparrowpelt alerted them.

Firespirit let out grumbling sound and flopped onto the hard uneven stone. "I can't..."

"We can't stay here." Falconpaw reasoned despite being tired as well.

Sparrowpelt led them to the edge of the mountain path and tilted his head to the side. "I'd say the distance is about two fox lengths... think you can make that?"

"I have to." Firespirit growled and looked over the edge.

Goldenpaw, who was the best at jumping across these gaps, stepped forward. "I'll go first!"

"Then Falconpaw since he's the oldest." Sparrowpelt replied with a nod. "I'll go after Deathpaw and Fangpaw."

Goldenpaw took a few steps away from the edge before darting forward and leaping smoothly across, landing a safe distance from the edge. Once he was sure he was balanced he turned back to the others. "Okay, you can come over now!"

Falconpaw tried not to look down at the seemingly bottomless crack

in the earth below him as he copied Goldenpaw's tactic of stepping back and running. He reached the edge of the cliff, felt his muscles propel him forward, and then there was only the wind in his fur and air beneath his paws. A heartbeat later the ground met him and he felt Goldenpaw help steady him before signaling for Deathpaw to join them. Falconpaw watched as the others leapt across to safety until it was just Firespirit left, for a moment a shadow seemed to descend over the group and he swore there was the sound of wing beats, but then it was gone. A bad feeling settled inside him but he didn't interrupt as Firespirit determinedly raced forward and jumped.

Time seemed to freeze for a moment, and then Falconpaw saw a dark feathered blur swoop down and knock Firespirit to the side, cutting her flank. She desperately clawed at the edge of the cliff as Sparrowpelt and Goldenpaw, the two closest cats, lunged forward to grab her.

"Look out!" Fangpaw screeched, his fur fluffing up as the eagle came back at them.

"Get to shelter!" Sparrowpelt demanded, shoving Firespirit ahead of him.

Falconpaw stood there, frozen in fear as he saw the talons lunge down at him, his heart was pounding, the blood rushing through his ears. Sharp teeth dragged him back and the eagle's wings brushed his shoulders as it flew away. He snapped out of it and ran with Deathpaw panting at his side, the others were a few tail lengths ahead still looking for shelter but Firespirit was falling behind as her wounds slowed her down. He heard the pounding of the eagle's wings as it came back and yowled a warning as its sharp talons grabbed Firespirit's spine and started flying off. To Falconpaw's horror, Fangpaw swiftly spun around and jumped up to claw at the giant bird's throat only to get his claws stuck in the feathers. The good thing was the eagle dropped Firespirit before it had gotten too high, the bad thing was it managed to peck Fangpaw loose and the young apprentice dropped to the edge of the cliff they'd just gotten over a tree length back and cracked his skull.

"Fangpaw!" Goldenpaw rushed towards his fallen littermate only for

a group of tree cats to appear and bring down the eagle while two others forced them back.

"Stay back!" A pretty white she-cat commanded.

A black furred tom trotted over with two slightly larger cats dragging the eagle came behind him. "It's fine Dawn, we killed it."

Falconpaw raced around the cats that had saved them, not caring who they were at the moment and stopped by Goldenpaw and Deathpaw's side as they stared down at Fangpaw's limp body. Goldenpaw let out a wail of grief while Deathpaw buried his muzzle in his brother's fur.

A gray and black tom walked over and looked down at the corpse with pity. "I'm sorry we didn't get here sooner."

Falconpaw bristled at the stranger's presence. "Who are you?"

"Forgive me, they call me Rock beneath still water." He gently helped lift Fangpaw onto Goldenpaw and Deathpaw's shoulders. "Those are my tribe mates Flight and Splash and our to-be's Darkness and Dawn. Follow us, we'll take you to our cave to get your wounded healed."

They rejoined Firespirit and Sparrowpelt before following the tribe cats farther into the rocky territory until they reached a large waterfall. Falconpaw watched in amazement as the tribe cats walked behind it before following carefully over the slippery surface. Goldenpaw and Deathpaw let Fangpaw's body to slide to the ground before beginning to groom his cold fur. Falconpaw wanted to join them, the small cat had been his den mate, but decided to leave his kin to grieve.

"Stoneteller, we have visitors!" Rock shouted down a dark tunnel.

Paw steps came from the tunnel and a senior cat stepped out. "Who are they? The rogue group?"

"They don't smell like them." Splash commented. "I think they're clan cats... there names are similar."

An elder tom walked over curiously. "Clan cats?"

"Enough, why are they here?" Stoneteller questioned.

Sparrowpelt stepped forward. "We are only passing through. We were sent here by Star Clan to get help from the other four clans."

"You're not from the ones by the lake?" The elder tilted his head. "Then what clan are you?"

"Skyclan." Falconpaw replied proudly.

"Stormfur, do you know who these cats are?" Stoneteller turned to look at the elder.

"No. There are only four clans." Stormfur shook his head.

"Five." Sparrowpelt corrected before turning to address the one they seemed to look to as a leader. "We need herbs if you can spare any, Firespirit is hurt, and we need to bury our dead."

Stoneteller examined him before nodding. "I'll treat your cats. Dawn, show our guests around and find them something to eat."

Dawn motioned for them to follow her and Falconpaw followed her along with Sparrowpelt, leaving the other two apprentices and Firespirit in the center of the cave.

"This is where the to-be's sleep." She motioned to dips in the floor. "You can either train to be a prey-hunter or cave-guard based on your strengths. Over there is where the prey-hunters and cave-guards sleep, I'm going to be joining them soon as a full cave-guard."

"Your nests don't look very comfortable." Falconpaw commented as he sniffed the feathers.

"They feel more comfortable than they look." She replied before guiding them across the cave. "This is the elder's spot, Stormfur was a clan cat like your group, he tells wonderful stories about living in clans. Over there in the crack in the wall is our nursery, we don't have any queens at the moment though."

Falconpaw continued to look around, trying to take in his surroundings, before padding back over to his den mates and sitting beside them. Dawn disappeared from his sight for a few heartbeats but returned with part of a hawk in her jaws, which she sat down in front of him.

"Here, try it." She nudged it closer. "It tastes great."

He was about to tell her he'd eaten hawk before but decided against it as he took in her exited look. Falconpaw took a small bite from the bird, enjoying the prey, before watching curiously as she took a bite as well. Seeing his expression, she let out a purr.

"This is how we share meals, Stormfur says its like sharing tongues in the clans. Two cats share a piece of prey together and share their day."

"Interesting." He looked at the waterfall. "So do you believe in Star Clan?"

"No. We believe in The Tribe of Endless Hunting." She followed his gaze as he spoke. "Beautiful isn't it? Our tribe is called the Tribe of Rushing Water, powerful like the current yet graceful."

Falconpaw nodded, and stared back at the she-cat. He was amazed that all this time there were other groups of cats out there that lived so similarly to clans and had such a functional way of life, especially in these harsh mountains. "Does it get lonely being the only group of cats up here?"

"There is another group." She replied, moving closer so their pelts brushed. "They don't have a name but usually they ignore us and we them so it doesn't matter."

"Dawn." Darkness hissed as he came over, making her flinch away from Falconpaw. "Why don't I show him to some nests for his clan mates while you get those other two apprentices to eat."

Dawn nodded and turned back to the left over fresh kill before taking it over to Deathpaw and Goldenpaw. Falconpaw's flank felt colder in her absence and he shook the image of her yellow eyes

and bright pink nose from his mind. Darkness led him back to the to-be's sleeping area and flicked his tail towards five nests in the corner.

"Those are yours." He curled up in a nest nearer to the waterfall. "And this one's mine so stay out of my bedding."

"No one wants your bedding." Another black cat, this one a she-cat with blue eyes hissed as she started washing her paw in her own nest. "You must be the clan cats, I'm Shadow of bird's wing."

"I'm Falconpaw." He replied before glancing over at Dawn, who was still trying to convince Goldenpaw to eat.

Shadow narrowed her eyes at him. "Are you mooning over my sister?"

He glanced back at her ashamed, though he hid it well. "I'm just concerned for my den mates... Goldenpaw looks so depressed."

"He just needs comforted by cats he knows, not some strange cat in a strange place."

Falconpaw sighed, he understood what she meant and knew it was correct, but couldn't bring himself to walk over there to console his den mate. Instead he walked over to one of the spare nests and curled up in it. He felt ashamed that while he should be grieving he was mooning over some tribe cat he wouldn't even see again after he left to go back to his own clan. He closed his eyes and tried to sleep, Dawn had been right about the nests being comfortable, and listened as one by one his clan mates joined him in their own nests. Right before he drifted off Dawn's scent drifted over to him as she laid down in her own nest between him and Darkness.

Chapter 16

[image]

Moonstar was looking down at his camp from the edge of the gorge in confusion. Nothing down there suggested there was anything wrong. It was night; all his clan mates were sleeping except for him. But why was he the one guarding the camp, especially if Blood Clan had taken over. As if his thought had brought the true horrors to life three figures appeared out of his den down below with blood dripping from their fur, all around them the ground began to turn crimson as well while bodies of cats began to litter the ground and dying wails filled Moonstar's ears. Quickly he scrambled away and turned to run from the scene below, however he crashed into a cat's flank and flinched back until he recognized Sunglow.

"Why must you torment me brother?" Moonstar yowled as his brother padded past him to look down at the camp.

"The sun has disappeared and the moon is turning red with blood" The light from the moon above was beginning to bath them in a bloody light as Sunglow spoke. "Now enemies have stirred and prey has hid in fear. To save the clan falconpaw has traveled farther than where the origin began and into the land of beyond."

Moonstar flattened his ears and gave a hiss. "Are you saying the fate of my clan rests with an apprentice and his patrol?"

"I'm saying you could help them. It would mean more blood on your paws, but don't you think it would be worth it to stop these cats? They are using you for entertainment until Skyclan is driven back into non-existence. Your paws are on a dark and bloody path brother, one that not many can turn from, but you still can. Don't let pride, arrogance, or fear blind you to the fact your clan needs you and you need them just as much. You killed because you wanted to make the clan strong by yourself, Moonstar, you must learn now to let our clan mates strengthen each other otherwise we will fall."

Moonstar looked back down at the fighting, Jayflight was fighting

fiercely with cats he didn't recognize at his side, Bluekit and Fallenbird however, were among the dead. "I can't lose them, I'll do anything to protect my family, I don't care if it costs the clan."

A sharp pain filled his head and he stared at his brother, had the Star Clan cat actually struck him. Sunglow lashed his tail in fury. "If you do Moonstar, I will personally kill you after you lose your ninth life. Only a coward would try to save only his kin! As leader it is your job to protect the clan as if they were all your kits! If you can't do that then I suggest handing the job to another more qualified cat."

Moonstar knew he was talking about Jayflight. "I will fight... just help me save my kit and mate."

Sunglow observed his littermate for a moment before nodding. "Take them to Billy. He will help them, just know you may never see them again if they get help from two legs."

"As long as Blood clan can't reach them." Moonstar replied as he watched his brother's starry form and the land around him disappear.

Moonstar opened his eyes and saw his den was empty, the Blood clan leaders hadn't left him without a guard however, as he could make out the battle scarred tom Scar, sitting guard outside his den. The large tom growled as he saw Moonstar walk out before blocking his path.

"Where do you think you're going?" Scar hissed.

Moonstar narrowed his eyes. "I believe I'm still allowed to walk around camp."

Scar glowered at him before backing off to allow him to walk away. Moonstar found Fallenbird with Bluekit beside the water and briskly walked over. They glanced up at him and Bluekit limped forward happily before rubbing against his father's flank.

"Guess what?" The kit's eyes were bright with excitement. "I get to go try hunting today, Fallenbird just showed me a hunting crouch!"

Moonstar gave his mate a worried look, their kit wasn't three moons

old yet; still not half way to being an apprentice, and yet he was expected to know how to fight and hunt. He tried to purr encouragingly however to make his kit happy. "Why don't we all go out together? I heard there was plenty of prey near the two leg place."

"They're letting you go that far from camp?" Fallenbird questioned as she stood up.

"They want me to feed myself, they have to let me hunt." He replied simply before leading his family up the path.

"Where are you three going?" Wilt fluffed up her brown fur threateningly.

Moonstar bristled his own fur along the spine. "Hunting unless you want to hunt for us."

Wilt didn't reply to the challenge before calling down to three other cats. "Blood, Rubble, Maple, take these cats hunting!"

The three cats nodded before surrounding the group and taking them towards the forest at a brisk pace. Moonstar didn't argue about where they were taking them, part of the forest would eventually stop at the two-leg place, but a pained screech made the entire patrol stop.

"Clearpool?" Fallenbird called out as the white she-cat darted out of some brush followed by Frost.

"Ah, entertainment and a meal." Rubble purred as he watched Frost gain on the medicine cat.

Moonstar heard his brother's words about protecting the clan echoing in his head as Clearpool desperately fought the tom. Before he could move to save her Fallenbird's fur darted across his vision as she hurled herself at Frost. Maple shoved him to the ground before he could fight as well while Blood streaked off after Fallenbird. Frost snarled as Fallenbird rammed into his and clawed at his flank, Clearpool shook her fur and rejoined the fight much to Moonstar's relief, at least his mate wouldn't fight alone. It became

clear to him however that the two she-cats were still outmatched even when blood backed off on Frost's orders.

They all fought like true warriors, but as Fallenbird made another lunge at Frost's throat Moonstar knew it was all over. The white tom swatted her to the ground while blood continued to ooze from his face and throat. Moonstar tried to save her, getting claws raked down his back as he escaped Maple's grasp, but was soon crushed down under Rubble and Blood's combine weight.

"Get up..." He begged as he watched Frost limp over while Clearpool finally ran off with a reluctant glance behind her.

"It's her time. You can still save your son." Sunglow's scent washed over him and the faint outline of his brother padded towards Fallenbird.

Frost delivered a deep bite to Fallenbird's throat before turning and looking around for Clearpool. Moonstar growled and lashed at his captors in anger before grabbing Bluekit by the scruff and running. The startled tom was limp in his grasp, still processing his mother's death, but started mewing in protest and rage a moment later.

"Hold still." Moonstar mumbled through the kit's fur.

"Fallenbird!" Bluekit squirmed. "We can't leave her!"

"I won't, I'll find her again." He sat the kit down once they reached a familiar fence. "Billy, Billy, come out!"

There was a scuffling sound on the other side before Billy appeared on top of the fence with a curious look in his eyes; Moonstar noticed the tom had a few fresh scratches on his flank. "It isn't safe for you to be here."

"I need your help." Moonstar replied, aware of the Blood clan cats catching up to him.

"Are my kits in danger?" Billy looked alarmed. "Will Sharpstar let me see them?"

"I'm leader now." Moonstar growled impatiently. "Blood clan is

destroying my clan, I need you to take Bluekit."

"Blood clan?" Billy's eyes widened. "I knew their smell was still around here! Harvey and Snook said I was just being jumpy and they'd left!"

"Wonderful news." Moonstar grabbed Bluekit and jumped up onto the fence before placing his son down again. "Now take him somewhere safe."

"I don't want to go with a kittypet!" Bluekit protested. "I'm going to be a warrior!"

"It won't be forever Bluekit, I'll come back for you." Moonstar promised.

Billy purred and sniffed the kit. "I was trained as a warrior, I'll tell you about it while you wait with me."

"Really?" Bluekit's eyes widened. "Can you teach me how to fight?"

"Perhaps." Billy glanced back at Moonstar with amusement.

He jumped down from the fence and gave Billy a thankful look. "Take care of him... he just lost his mother."

Billy nodded once more before jumping down with Bluekit in his jaws. Moonstar began running back to camp, for an instant forgetting about the patrol of Blood clan cats until Maple barreled into his flank and the two others began tearing into his neck. He clawed them back but only for a heartbeat before Plague came into view and scored deep marks from his cheek to his back.

"You dare try to escape?" Plague snarled with rage before clawing Moonstar in the eyes, effectively blinding him. "You will pay and if I ever see that kit of yours he'll pay too!"

Moonstar backed away blindly as he tried to figure out where to aim his claws, he knew his enemies would be surrounding him but just not how far out. Still he tried to fight, managing to catch Maple as she got too close, and bit deeply into her throat before being flung off by Rubble and clawed by Blood.

"Back off!" Plague yowled as Moonstar's pelt became slick with his own blood. "I want to finish him."

Moonstar couldn't get back to his paws quick enough before Plague was on him. The Blood clan leader's teeth sank into his throat while his claws continuously raked down his stomach and side. After a few more wounds were inflicted Moonstar couldn't continue and swore he could smell Fallenbird as she whispered incoherent things into his shredded ears. His last thought was that he was glad Bluekit was safely away from this sight before his body gave out as his remaining lives were torn from him by Plague's merciless attacks.

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Allegiances updated

Skyclan

Leader- Jayflight: Blue eyed tom with a light blue gray pelt. 4 yrs.

Deputy-

Medicine cat-Clearpool: Pure white she-cat with blue eyes. 1yrs.

Warriors-

Sparrowpelt: Dark brown tabby tom. 8 yrs.

Cherrytail: Tortoiseshell and white she-cat. Mate to Sharpstar. 8 yrs.

Fallowfern: Pale brown she-cat. Mate to Waspwhisker. 8 yrs.

Rockshade: Black tom with a torn ear. Mate to Mintfur. 7.5 yrs.

Bouncefire: Ginger tom. 7.5 yrs.

Egg: Cream colored tom. 7 yrs.

Sagefur: Pale gray tom. 7 yrs.

Mintfur: Gray tabby she-cat. Mate to Rockshade. 7 yrs.

Hawkshriek: She-cat with yellow eyes and dark brown fur. Mate to Egg. 6.5 yrs

Rabbitleap: Brown tom. 6.5 yrs.

Creekfeather: Gray tabby tom. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Falconpaw)

Nettlesplash: Pale brown tom. Mate to Birdscar. 6.5 yrs. (Apprentice- Goldenpaw)

Plumwillow: Dark gray she-cat. 6.5 yrs.

Sandyflame: Light colored she-cat with darker tail tip, legs, and ears. 6 yrs.

Birdscar: Black she-cat with a gray muzzle and a scar over one eye. Mate to Nettlesplash. 6 yrs.

Stormflash: Gray and Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs.

Firespirit: Ginger she-cat. 5.5 yrs.

Harrypelt: A gray tom with a paler gray muzzle and underbelly. 5.5 yrs.

Blizzardheart: She-cat with tabby patches across her white fur. 3.5 yrs.

Tigerflame: Ginger tom with gray stripes. 3.5 yrs.

Birchleap: Tom with a light tan pelt. 1 yrs.

Apprentices-

Falconpaw: Tom with a black and brown pelt along with two different colored eyes. 10 moons.

Goldenpaw: Tom with light golden-brown pelt. 8 moons.

Deathpaw: Tom with dark brown fur and light patches of cream fur. 8 moons.

Elders-

Shrewtooth: Skinny black tom. Had to retire early due to a leg injury. 7.5 yrs.

BloodClan

Leaders- Toxic: Tom with a dark brown pelt, amber eyes, and one gray paw.

Plague: Black tom with a white paw.

Deputy- No official deputy.

Medicine cat- None, fend for yourself.

Fighters-

Scar: Tom with long scar on his side.

Wilt: Brown she-cat.

Newt: Speckled tom. Former Mate Ivy.

Apple: Russet tom.

Rubble: Gray tom.

Snow: Silver she-cat.

Venom: Long toothed tom.

Maple: Calico she-cat.

Blood: Tom with orange eyes and black fur. Mate Flare

Flare: Golden tabby. Mate Blood.

Shade: Black she-cat.

Snake: Skinny light brown tom.

Holly: Black she-cat.

Wolf: Tom

Tribe of Rushing Water

Leader/ Healer- Teller of Pointed Stones

Cave-guards

(Moss) that grows by river. Female.

(Night) of no tars. Female.

(Pebble) that rolls down mountain. Female.

(Rock) Beneath still water. Male. Mate Wing.

(Rain) that passes quickly. Female.

(Lark) that sings at dawn. Female. Mate Dark.

Prey-hunters

(Flight) of startled heron. Female.

(Screech) of angry owl. Male.

(Splash) when fish leaps. Female.

(Storm) clouds at dusk. Male.

(Wing) shadow over water. Female. Mate Rock.

(Dark) shadow on water. Male. Mate Lark.

(Snow) falling on stones. Female.

(Pine) that clings to rock. Male.

To-be's

(Cloud) above waterfall. Male. To-be prey-hunter.

(Darkness) sent by eagle. Male. To-be cave-guard.

(Shadow) of bird's wing. Female. To-be prey-hunter.

(Dawn) sun rising overhead. Female. To-be cave-guard.

Elders

(Brook) Where small fish swim. Female. Mate Stormfur.

(Stormfur) Male. Mate Brook.

(Gray) sky before dawn. Female.

Thunderclan

Leader- Bramblestar: 8 lives.

Deputy- Squirrelflight

Medicine cat- Jayfeather

Warriors-

Graystripe

Dustpelt

Sandstorm

Brackenfur

Brightheart

Cloudtail

Thornclaw

Leafpool

Birchfall

Whitewing

Hazeltail

Lionblaze

Toadstep

Rosepetal

Blossomfall

Bumblestripe

Dovewing

Cherryfur

Moleclaw

Queens-

Cinderheart (kits- Softkit, Badgerkit)

Ivypool (Kits- foxkit)

Elders-

Purdy

Shadowclan

Leader- Rowanstar: 8 lives.

Deputy- Crowfrost

Medicine cat- Acornshade**Warriors-**

Oakfur

Smokefoot (Apprentice- Darkpaw)

Toadfoot

Applefur

Ratscar

Tawnypelt

Owlclaw

Kinkfur

Ivytail

Scorchfur

Tigerheart

Dawnpelt (Apprentice- Marshpaw)

Pinenose

Ferretclaw

Starlingwing

Apprentices-

Darkpaw

Marshpaw

Elders-

Snaketail

Whitewater

Windclan

Leader- Onestar

Deputy- Emberfoot

Medicine cat- Kestrelflight (Apprentice- Whisperwhisker)

Warriors-

Crowfeather

Owlwhisker

Whitetail

Nightcloud

Weaselfur

Harespring

Leaftail

Heathertail

Swallowtail

Sunstrike (Apprentice- Grasspaw)

Furzepelt

Boulderfall

Apprentices-

Whisperwhisker

Grasspaw

Riverclan

Leader- Mistystar: 4 Lives.

Deputy- Reedwhisker

Medicine cat- Willowshine

Warriors-

Mintfur

Icewing

Pebblefoot

Minnowtail

Duskfur (Apprentice- Scalepaw)

Mosspelt

Beetlewhisker

Grasspelt

Hollowflight

Troutstream

Mossyrock

Rushsplash

Scalefur

Queens-

Petalfur

Elders-

Pouncetail

Other Cats/Animals

Billystorm: Left clan after his mate Leafstar died but occasionally shows up to see his kits.

Ember: Tom who was formerly a member of Blood clan as a kit.

Bluekit: Moonstar's remaining kit given to Billy to keep safe. 2.5mns

Chapter 17

Falconpaw padded over the soft grass, they had finally made it out of the mountains with the aid of Dawn, who had decided to go with them while Goldenpaw stayed behind to be with his dead brother. Now they were hurrying along the field towards the scent of a large body of water. The full moon was high in the air above them as they bounded forward, and soon they found themselves on top of a small hill over looking a large red two-leg den with large animals standing in the dark field, mere shadows in the moonlight, beyond that was a lake with an island and tree that connected it to the shore.

"Wow..." Dawn murmured beside him. "It's beautiful..."

Sparrowpelt started moving again. "Hurry, we need to get to the gathering before the moon goes down."

"Do you really think they have a gathering on the same nights we do?" Deathpaw asked as he panted.

"Of course they do!" Firespirit replied. "Otherwise Firestar wouldn't have taught us about the importance of the full moon."

"What are they talking about?" Dawn asked in confusion.

Falconpaw briskly walked beside her. "The full moon is a night of peace for the clans, apparently the other clans join together in peace to talk, though since Skyclan is alone our leader always announces our accomplishments. The thing is though, if something covers the moon then the gathering ends early, the queens say it means Star Clan is angry."

Dawn's eyes turned up to the moon and Falconpaw could see the silver reflection in her eyes. He felt his pelt start to burn as he realized he was staring before looking away and putting on a burst of speed to catch up with Deathpaw, Dawn followed right on his tail. He finally came to a stop once they reached the water's edge

and gave a yelp of shock as Dawn ran into him and he fell in. Falconpaw splashed out of the water and shook himself, now even more embarrassed before seeing Sparrowpelt's disapproving look.

"Stop acting like kits. We are here to get help for our clan, or have you forgotten?" The warrior growled before walking along the pebbly shore. "Come on, I can hear them now."

Falconpaw fell into step beside Firespirit this time, she was still limping and puss oozed from the deepest wounds despite Stoneteller's herbs. Every cat in the patrol knew she was in pain but when Sparrowpelt suggested she stay behind to heal she snap at him that she was fine. Looking at her now showed just how wrong the she-cat had been as she heavily limped along with determination. Sparrowpelt signaled for them to stop one they reached the fallen tree.

"Listen, we'll go across carefully one at a time, once we reach the other side stay on the shore, it's best if we meet these cats together." He told them before jumping onto the tree and walking across. Once he was half way he turned back to them. "Next cat, come on; just don't shake the tree too much."

Deathpaw silently followed him, as eager as the young tom was to see these other clan cats; he was still grief stricken over Fangpaw's death and Goldenpaw's leaving. Once he was half way across and Sparrowpelt was on the other side, Falconpaw jumped up for his turn. He dug his claws into the soft bark and walked steadily forward, nearly slipping once when he missed a paw step. He caught himself however, not wanting to take another swim, before digging his claws in deeper as the tree shook slightly when Dawn started to follow him. Finally, he was able to jump down onto the sandy ground and they waited until Dawn jumped down as well.

"Where's Firespirit?" Sparrowpelt glanced back at the shore where the she-cat was lying down watching them.

"She said she's going to rest over there while we talk to the clans." Dawn replied as she sensed the tom's worry.

Sparrowpelt nodded in understanding before taking the lead again.

"Stay close to me and don't look as if you're a threat. This may be a night of the truce but to these cats we're intruders."

Falconpaw followed behind the warrior, the smell of several clans catching his attention. They walked through the undergrowth and padded into the clearing where a large gathering of cats was looking up at four leaders in the branches of a tree. The leader that was currently speaking, a she-cat with blue-gray fur, spotted them and paused. Sensing something was wrong the others cats turned to where she was looking and Falconpaw saw a few of them unsheathe their claws and growl.

"Stand down!" A large dark tabby tom growled as he stepped forward on his branch. "This is a time of peace, let them explain themselves."

Sparrowpelt cautiously led the way through the cats as they made way for them until he was standing near the base of the tree. Deputies and medicine cats watched them from nearby while their leaders looked down on them from above. Falconpaw shuffled nervously and looking at the others in the patrol they seemed a bit fearful as well.

The tabby climbed down and walked over to them, his eyes observing them sharply as the others joined him on the ground. "You aren't from around here."

Sparrowpelt nodded respectfully. "You're right, we've traveled from beyond the mountains to find you."

A skinny tom narrowed his eyes. "Why would you do that?"

"Our medicine cat said we had to find you to get help."

"Your medicine cat?" The gray she-cat gave him a disbelieving look. "You're from a clan?"

Falconpaw nodded. "Of course we are, we're Skyclan... or what could be left of it by now."

A pale she-cat stepped out of the crowd of curious warriors. "What's happened to Skyclan? Is it the rats again?"

"Sandstorm, do you know about these cats?" The dark tom questioned.

"Firestar and I helped rebuild their clan from nothing when you were just known as Bramblepaw."

Sparrowpelt purred as he finally recognized her. "It's nice to see you again Sandstorm, I'm sad to say Leafstar and Sharpstar have joined Star Clan since we last met."

"Firestar has left us as well." She replied sadly. "What brings you so far from the gorge?"

"Blood Clan." Deathpaw spat out the name.

A murmer swept through the gathered cats and Sandstorm's leader signaled for them to be silent. "Blood Clan you say?"

"They've taken over our clan." Falconpaw said. "They killed my brother and so many other clan mates."

A gray tom with blue eyes padded over. "Bramblestar, remember the message the medicine cats received? We must help them, you added a rule to the warrior code that all clans must join together to keep one from falling."

Bramblestar nodded. "You're right... As leader of Thunderclan I offer hospitality to you until we can get a patrol to help you."

"Are you serious?" The fourth leader lashed his tail. "We don't know these cats."

"Then mind your own clan Rowanstar." Bramblestar growled a warning. "You can't stop me or any other clan from helping Skyclan but if you don't like it then keep Shadowclan away."

The sky above darkened and a light brown medicine cat let out a cry. "Star Clan is angry, the gathering is over!"

Rowanstar quickly gathered his cats. "Shadowclan, we're leaving now!"

"Come on, let's get you to Thunderclan." A ginger she-cat said as she came to stand by her leader.

"Thank you." Sparrowpelt replied. "If it isn't too much trouble, we also have an injured member of our patrol waiting on the shore, her wounds appear to be infected."

"I'll see what I can do." The gray tom replied before walking off.

Sandstorm walked over to their side. "Care to introduce me to your new clan mates?"

Sparrowpelt nodded. "This is Falconpaw, Deathpaw, and Dawn. Firespirit is waiting and we lost Fangpaw in the mountains... his brother Goldenpaw stayed with the tribe."

"Sounds like we have many stories to tell each other while Bramblestar sorts things out, you just met my daughter Squirrelflight, when we get to camp I'll introduce you to my other daughters and grand-kits." She purred and stayed by them the rest of the way to camp.

Chapter 18

Falconpaw sat in the center of the Thunderclan camp with his clan mates around him as Bramblestar called a clan meeting. The cats padded out of their dens, confused about such an early meeting, but obeyed with minimal complaint.

"Cats of Thunderclan, you must know by now of our visitors and how they need our help. I am willing to send a patrol with them along with the other clans if they wish to." Bramblestar looked down at the cats below. "Brackenfur, Cloudtail, I ask that you go to the other clans and tell their leaders to send a patrol to the crest beyond the barn by sunhigh if they wish to help. Be careful with Shadowclan, Rowanstar may not take kindly to the visit."

"Of course he won't." A young warrior muttered to their right. "Did you see him at the gathering? He looked like he was ready to start a battle!"

"But he wouldn't ignore the warrior code." Sandstorm replied.

"Don't put anything past Shadowclan."

Bramblestar flicked his tail for silence. "From Thunderclan I will send Thornclaw, Lionblaze, Rosepetal, Bumblestripe, and my apprentice Badgerpaw."

"But he's barely seven moons!" A gray she-cat jumped to her paws. "You can't!"

"I can fight!" A black and white apprentice spoke up. "Besides, father will be there. He can teach me on the way!"

A large golden tom nodded. "I'll take care of him."

"Jayfeather make sure they get some traveling herbs, Squirrelflight, start making the patrols." Bramblestar leapt down from the highledge and walked over to Sparrowpelt. "I will send more if the

other clans don't help but I will not risk weakening my clan too much."

"We understand." Sparrowpelt dipped his head. "Your help is appreciated."

The blind medicine cat dropped a bundle of herbs at their paws. "I don't recommend Firespirit going back."

"What?" Falconpaw exclaimed. "But she has to! Skyclan's her home!"

Firespirit limped out of the medicine cat den nearby; the small distance seemed to tire her. "I can't make the journey again, I may not be close to being an elder but these wounds were more infected than we thought... Star Clan willing I'll be able to come back home eventually."

"Then... until we see you again." Deathpaw sadly mewed a farewell before joining the Thunderclan patrol.

"We'll tell the others what happened." Sparrowpelt assured her.

Falconpaw nodded. "Until we meet again Firespirit."

"Good luck, may Star Clan light your path." She said before limping back off.

"Let's get going." Thornclaw said after they finished the herbs. "Before the other clans send out patrols."

Falconpaw followed them with Dawn at his side, the undergrowth was thicker than he was used to but the familiar tall trees were a comfort he enjoyed. Beside him though, Dawn seemed less at ease but still excited as she bounded at his side through the forest. The dawn light dappled their pelts as they ran and soon their fur was slick with dew. Eventually they reached the lakeshore where they slowed their run to a brisk walk as the gentle waves lapped at their paws.

"We'll be crossing Windclan territory and the Horse Place to get to the hill and thunder path." Thornclaw informed them. "It will take longer but I would rather that than risk a fight with Shadowclan."

"That's fine." Sparrowpelt replied. "We won't be able to leave yet anyway."

They took off again, keeping two tail lengths from the water's edge, and as the sun reached the edge of the treetops the trees gave way to tall grass and windy terrain. Falconpaw could smell rabbit and cats but saw nothing as they ran at the edge of Windclan territory. Once again Thornclaw slowed them down as the Horse Place came into sight and Badgerpaw sniffed the air curiously from where he walked between Falconpaw and Deathpaw.

"It smells weird." The young apprentice announced.

"Well as long as dogs or twolegs don't see us and we avoid the animal's hooves we'll be fine." Lionblaze told his son.

Badgerpaw turned to Deathpaw, much more talkative now that they were out of enemy territory. "So what's it like living so far away from other clans? Do you have gatherings or border patrols?"

"Yes." Deathpaw nodded. "We keep hostile cats like rogues and loners away and sometimes even have battles to take down rats! The gatherings are a bit boring, our leader just catches all of us up to date on what happened since the last full moon."

"So you must not have many battles." Badgerpaw commented.

"Not really." Falconpaw replied. "How many battles do you usually have?"

"Well they're mostly skirmishes over borders now but in my opinion Rowanstar is trying to provoke a fight between Shadowclan and Thunderclan."

"Well we don't have to comply with his bloodthirst." Rosepetal growled and picked up the pace.

Yowls sounded behind them when they were a few tree lengths from the meeting place and four skinny cats came running towards them smelling of Windclan. Thornclaw stopped and greeted them as they caught up. "Owlwhisker, has Onestar sent you to help?"

"Yes." Owlwhisker nodded. "Are we the first to show up?"

"So far." Bumblestripe twitched his whiskers. "Though I at least expect Riverclan to come."

"Should we even wait for then?" A black Windclan tom asked.

"Calm down Crowfeather, we need to give them a chance at least." A young gray tom said.

"You brought an apprentice?" A fishy smell came over the area as another patrol arrived.

"Icewing." Owlwhisker greeted. "Do you know if Shadowclan is coming?"

"They'll be here soon, we would've waited for them but we didn't want to listen to Starlingwing's annoying comments until we had to."

"Well at least we can be on our way." Thornclaw said as they reached the hill top, once Shadowclan got there they'd have to cross the thunderpath and small plain before reaching the mountains again.

"Perhaps we will get back in time to save our clan." Falconpaw said to Deathpaw as they looked towards the mountains.

"I know we will." Dawn purred encouragement. "The journey back will be much faster now that we know the way."

"I hope so."

Chapter 19

Jayflight looked out over the bleak camp, two moons had passed since Moonstar, Fallenbird, and assumable Bluekit, had died. Nothing followed but more deaths. The elders were gone along with many loyal warriors and here he was, the new leader of Skyclan, and he couldn't even receive his nine lives because Plague denied him to speak with Star Clan. The only good thing he saw was Frost had been killed, when Jayflight had first found out about one Blood clan leader's death he had tried leading his clan against the rest once more... and failed. Looking back he should've known the clan wasn't in any condition to fight.

"Jayflight, there was a group of cats spotted running this way." Rockshade informed him as he came back, his Blood clan escort ran off to report the same thing to Toxic. "I think I saw Sparrowpelt, Deathpaw, and Falconpaw!"

"They came back?" He asked, everyone in the clan thought the missing cats had died.

"With help!" Rockshade's mew was filled with excitement.

Angry yowls came from the Blood clan leaders and Jayflight tensed as Toxic stalked towards him. "Do you foxhearts really believe a few more cats will save you?"

Rockshade gave him an apologetic look before running off, leaving the unofficial leader to meet the snarling tom. "Only mousebrains would refuse help if they need it."

Toxic lunged forward and pinned him to the ground, sharp claws digging into his chest. "Blood clan, kill them all!"

"No!" A voice from the top of the gorge made them look up to see Falconpaw leading the new cats down to path.

Toxic growled and tore out Jayflight's throat before rushing off,

leaving the gray tom to bleed out on the ground. The gorge filled with the sound of fighting cats once more and Toxic picked up the pace as he weaved through the cats, his focus fixed on the blue and yellow-eyed tom that had led the other cats into the gorge. The apprentice was currently grappling with Rubble but when the gray tom saw his leader he ran off to hand over his opponent to Toxic.

"I never knew an apprentice could be such an annoyance." Toxic hissed and swiped at Falconpaw's face.

Falconpaw jumped back from the blow and bared his teeth, Toxic showed his right back before leaping forward and biting down on the young cat's throat. Claws dug into him and blood flowed from the scratches on his flanks but he continued to shake the apprentice in his jaws until a white she-cat landed on his back and sank her own teeth into his neck. Toxic shook her off but while she distracted him Falconpaw managed to slip free and catch him in the face with his claws. Blinded, Toxic staggered back with a hiss before being taken down by a black and white apprentice and Deathpaw.

"Plague!" Toxic yowled for his brother but the other leader was too busy fighting off Sparrowpelt and a large golden tom. A few heartbeats later the four apprentices took him out.

"Falconpaw, your neck..." Dawn looked at the wound in concern.

He staggered to the ground as blood dripped from the wound. Deathpaw looked around before spotting Clearpool at the edge of the fighting. "Clearpool, Falconpaw needs help!"

The medicine cat didn't hear what he said but getting her attention was enough and a soon Falconpaw was safely inside the medicine cat den where she could treat him. Dawn ran back out into the fighting before being barreled into by a brown she-cat from Blood clan. She got back to her paws before snarling and lashing her claws out at her opponent, who took the attack to the side of the head before lunging forward and snapping at her foreleg. Dawn yowled in pain and used her other paw to claw at the cat's throat, if they were aiming to kill she would have to fight to kill as well. But the brown she-cat released her after a few more blows and ran off into

the fighting.

An agonized cat's screech came from the center of camp and the Blood clan cats stopped fighting and turned to watch as Sparrowpelt and Lionblaze finished off Plague. When they saw their last leader die the rogue cats began to run off out of the gorge without a second thought, now that their leaders were gone no cat had a reason to stay and fight. As the sounds of fighting stopped the sound of triumphant yowls rose from the clan cats. Once everything calmed down however the toll of the battle became clear. Jayflight, Plumwillow, Mintfur, Tigerflame, and Bumblestripe didn't make it, not only that, but many of the survivors were severely injured as they crouched on the ground unable to move.

"Jayflight is dead." Sparrowpelt announced. "Clearpool, as medicine cat, you will appoint the next leader."

Clearpool flickered her tail to show she heard him while she continued working on cats' injuries. They had been weakened but at least now they stood away from Blood clan, lives had been lost, too many, but now future generations were safe. Dawn limped off to the medicine cat's den where Falconpaw was sleeping, cobwebs were wrapped around his throat. He stirred slightly when she curled up next to him but the poppy seeds kept him from waking up.

Chapter 20

[image]

Sparrowstar looked down at his clan, Clearpool had named him leader the night before and he'd announced Blizzardheart as his deputy when he came back from getting his nine lives. Now it was sunhigh and the clan was gathered below the rock pile while the guest clan cats sat in back watching him calmly.

He took a deep breath before standing up straighter and addressing the clan. "As you know we have driven out Blood clan with the help of Thunderclan, Shadowclan, Riverclan, and Windclan. The dawn patrol, I'm happy to announce, hasn't found any fresh trace of the rogues but we will be keeping eyes and ears open for any sign of them. Our guests will be going home in a few sunrises once Clearpool says they're well enough to travel, I hope all of you will continue treating them with respect as if they were our own clan mates."

"Thank you Sparrowstar, we appreciate the hospitality." Thornclaw replied.

Sparrowstar nodded in thanks before continuing. "Now, we have more important business to get to. Falconpaw, Deathpaw, step forward."

The two apprentices obeyed, Falconpaw still limping heavily from the fight, and looked up at him excitedly.

"I, Sparrowstar, leader of Skyclan look upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have learned the ways of the warrior code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn. Falconpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"

Falconpaw held his head up proudly. "I do."

"Deathpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect

and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do." Deathpaw echoed Falconpaw.

"Then by the powers of Star Clan, I give you your warrior names. Falconpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Falconstorm. Star Clan honors your strength and determination. Deathpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Deathswipe. Star Clan honors your spirit and loyalty."

"Falconstorm, Deathswipe! Falconstorm, Deathswipe!" The clan continued cheering until Sparrowstar signaled for silence.

"We have another young cat joining Skyclan today. Dawn, please step forward." He waited until she was standing beside Falconstorm before continuing. "Dawn, you wish to join Skyclan and as leader I call upon Star Clan to look down on you. Dawn, from this moment forward you will remain Dawn sun rising overhead. We respect your choice to keep your original name and welcome you as a full member of Skyclan, you have shown courage and intelligence and are ready to be a full warrior."

The clan once again cheered for the new member and Sparrowstar couldn't help but notice it was Falconstorm who yowled the loudest as he gave the white she-cat a joyful look. He dismissed the clan and jumped down from the rock pile before walking over to the new warriors.

"How does it feel to be the newest warriors in Skyclan?" He asked as they turned to face them.

Falconstorm purred happily. "I can't wait for my own apprentice to teach."

"I'll make sure you get one soon." Sparrowstar promised. "Billy came by and said Bluekit was safe with him, he should be giving the kit to the border patrol tonight."

"Well I can't wait to lead my own hunting patrol." Deathswipe replied before sighing. "I wish Goldenpaw had come home though..."

"He's were his destiny took him." Sparrowstar replied. "I'm sure you'll meet him again some day."

"In Star Clan?"

"Perhaps." He gave a knowing look towards Falconstorm and Dawn before padding off to Clearpool.

"Sparrowstar, how can I help you?" She asked as she padded over to meet him.

"Has Star Clan spoken to you about anything?" He asked, during his naming ceremony they had given his nine lives but didn't tell him anything special.

"No."

"Is that a good thing?"

"I believe so." She glanced back at where the new warriors were talking amongst themselves; Dawn was sitting right up against Falconstorm's flank. "Star Clan knows that we'll return to our strength again soon. We are Skyclan; we are tough, resilient, and proud. Nothing will destroy us again."